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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Arafat, Egypt's Mubarak To Meet 'Next Week'

NC0908095891 Paris AFP in English 0916 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Dubayy, United Arab Emirates, Aug 9 (AFP) - A Gulf newspaper reported Friday that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, at odds with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak over the Gulf crisis, would visit Egypt next week to discuss the U.S.-proposed Middle East peace initiative.

The Dubayy-based AL-BAYAN said the visit had been arranged by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who maintains close ties with both sides.

In its front-page report from Cairo and Amman, AL-BAYAN quoted unnamed Palestinian officials as saying that 'Arafat would go to the Jordanian capital before flying to Cairo.

It added that a Palestine Liberation Organization delegation which was in Egypt this week was preparing for that visit.

The paper also said Egypt was trying to arrange a meeting in Cairo between a senior U.S. official and a noted Palestinian, whom it did not name, to remove the "obstacle of Palestinian representation at the peace conference."

But it did not say whether that Palestinian would be a member of the PLO, with which the U.S. halted contacts last year after the organization failed to condemn a failed sea borne attack on the Israeli coast.

Israel has repeatedly said it would not countenance negotiations with Palestinians from east Jerusalem—which it considers its undivided, eternal capital—or those who are members of the PLO and has insisted that Jerusalem was not up for discussion.

"The U.S official will affirm during the meeting Washington's commitment to Palestinian self-determination, the need for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and that Jerusalem will not be excluded from the peace talks," AL-BAYAN said.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Foreign Ministers Conference Continues

Crisis Anticipation Measures Urged

JN0808171091 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Istanbul, 8 Aug (PETRA)—Jordan has called for putting the Gulf crisis behind us, and urged that lessons be learned so as to spare the Arab and Muslim worlds and Middle East countries further such crises.

The statement was made by Jordan's Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, who is leading his country's delegation to the Islamic foreign ministers conference now under way in Istanbul. In a telephone interview with the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY today, the minister stressed the advisability of instituting a viable mechanism to contain and anticipate crises.

Al-Nusur said the Gulf crisis is casting a shadow over the mood of the conference, which brings together 45 Islamic nations. He noted that most of the delegations had sought to prevent any polarization that could foment Islamic disarray. [passage omitted]

Atmosphere Termed 'Negative'

JN0808123591

[Editorial Report] Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic at 1110 GMT on 8 August carries an 8-minute recording of telephone interviews with Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur and Yemeni State Minister for Foreign Affairs 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, who are currently in Istanbul attending the Islamic foreign ministers conference. The telephone calls are initiated by correspondent Muhammad al-Sharif in Amman.

Mr. al-Nusur highlights topics discussed in the conference and the importance of the bilateral meetings held on the sidelines of the conference. He then says: "In fact, the overall atmosphere in the conference was negative. I cannot claim that it was positive or that it reflected understanding. No, the atmosphere inclined toward negativity, and the aftermath of the Gulf war still overshadowed the meetings. However, and to the same extent, many parties to the conference were willing to move from this state toward a new future and a new regional order where the Arabs and Muslims are not divided into opposing axes."

Asked whether he felt the resolutions adopted by the conference are sufficient to face the stage the Arab and Islamic nation is undergoing, the Yemeni minister replies: "I personally do not think they are. We were supposed to overcome some issues that upset sensitivities and bring back painful memories. However, we are trying, and all parties are very willing to overcome this stage and look toward the future optimistically, in a manner that secures a minimum degree of Islamic solidarity."

Meeting Ends; Communique Issued

TA0908070591 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 2000 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Safa Giray has said that Islamic countries can overcome every obstacle to a better future as long as they remain loyal to the principle of just and lasting peace through dialogue and cooperation. The 20th Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers conference ended in Istanbul today and issued a final communique.

Addressing the closing session of the conference, Giray noted that the meeting was held during a very important and sensitive period in history. Giray declared that Islamic communities will fulfill their tasks and responsibilities within the process of global reconstruction. Pointing out that political and economic cooperation will lead to rapprochement between member countries and create new understanding, Giray stressed that this understanding will also have a positive influence on the member countries' relations with other countries.

The joint communique issued at the end of the ICO meeting noted that steps were taken during the conference to develop the Turkish people's relations with the ICO, as well as with the member countries, in every field. The communique denounced the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and stressed the need for Iraq to fully comply with the UN resolutions.

According to the final communique, it was decided to accept Saudi Arabia's request to convene the first congress of world Islamic communities in coordination with the ICO.

The ICO also harshly condemned Israel for establishing new settlements in occupied territories, particularly in East Jerusalem. The communique stated that this Israeli attitude contradicts the spirit of the peaceful efforts that are currently under way. Noting that Palestine constitutes the essence of the Middle East problem, the joint statement confirmed that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

The ICO final communique also emphasized the fact that the strengthening of economic, commercial, and scientific cooperation among Islamic countries will enhance unity and solidarity within the Islamic community.

Giray, al-Ghabid News Conference

TA0908103691 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 0430 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] The 20th Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers conference, which began in Istanbul on 3 August, ended yesterday and issued a final communique. Turkish Foreign Minister Safa Giray and ICO Secretary General Hamid al-Ghabid held a news conference at the end of the meeting.

In his news conference, Giray said that he held bilateral meetings with the foreign ministers of 25 countries and conducted a useful exchange of views with them on the development of relations. He added that these talks were extremely beneficial. Giray explained that the conference did not endorse the Iraqi position that the continuation of the embargo is invalid. He remarked that a great majority of the Islamic countries demonstrated their affirmation of the supremacy of international legitimacy and justice.

Giray noted that the ICO meeting convened at the same time that the peace process seeking a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem entered a positive stage. He said that the statements made by Arab countries directly involved with this problem attracted more interest under these circumstances.

The foreign minister declared that President Turgut Ozal's opening speech was praised by a vast majority of the delegations' leaders, who extolled his guidance and constructive suggestions. Giray noted that Ozal's important speechwas adopted as a document of the ICO conference.

Giray said: In my opinion, an important aspect of the Istanbul conference is that it drew attention to certain circles' attempts to portray Islam in a negative light; in this context, it underlined Islam's unifying and conciliatory nature, which is far from fanaticism, praises tolerance, and emphasizes the common points among people and communities.

Giray declared that the strong and unequivocal resolution the ICO meeting adopted on the Turkish Cypriot community constitutes a powerful message to the Greek Cypriot side to adopt a more positive stand at the peace talks. According to the resolution, Giray noted, the level of Turkish Cypriot participation in the activities and meetings of all ICO organs will be raised. He announced that the ICO also decided to keep the Turkish Cypriot community's application for membership on the agenda.

In reply to a question, the foreign minister said that measures to enhance trust and security among Islamic countries will contribute to regional peace. Recalling that during the Amman conference in 1988, Turkey proposed a draft resolution incorporating confidence- and security-building measures, Giray remarked: If this draft resolution had been implemented, the Gulf war could have been averted. He explained that a similar draft resolution submitted by Turkey during this conference was adopted in principle.

In turn, al-Ghabid announced that the ICO decision to support the Palestinians in the Middle East peace process will not undermine U.S. peace efforts. Pointing out that certain formulas concerning the Palestinian representation during the peace conference were discussed at the ICO meeting, al-Ghabid expressed the conviction that an acceptable solution will be reached on this subject.

Palestinian Affairs

Executive Committee on Peace Process, 'Pressure'

LD0808195591 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee has issued the following statement:

The PLO Executive Committee is addressing the masses of our people at this critical stage by emphasizing the need for consolidation and bolstering of our national unity. Our deeply rooted unity, which is based on the

national constants that have been approved by Palestinian bodies, is able to face up to and thwart attempts to bring pressure to bear on the Palestinian position at this stage. Such pressures have been counteracted by the PLO, which has affirmed that, while it has been positively responding to the peace process, it reaffirms the need for meeting to provide the elements necessary for the peace process to have a successful outcome: i.e. the aim of the peace conference ought to be the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions stipulating an end to the occupation, an Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem, and a recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate national political rights, foremost of which is its right to self-determination and rejection of Jerusalem's exclusion as a subject for negotiation and representation. The decision on Palestinian participation should be made by the PLO and should be free from foreign. An immediate halt to the Israeli settlement in occupied territories, including Jerusalem, is also needed.

The Executive Committee has noticed the existence of an organized campaign conducted by a number of foreign circles which seeks to distort and twist the the Palestinian stance to pressure this group. One form of this campaign is the attack being waged against the national personalities who the PLO has asked to meet with the U.S. secretary of state in the occupied territories.

The Executive Committee, while bearing witness to the solid and capable nationalist performance of the brothers and sisters who have carried out the national duty they were entrusted with to defend the Palestinian national stance to the best of their abilities, points out the Israeli authorities' conspicuous role aimed at stirring up divisions and dealing a blow to our people's unity, particularly inside the occupied territories.

The Executive Committee is convinced that the masses of our people are able to protect their unity, preserve their national stance, and defend their inalienable rights and the unity of their representation under PLO leadership.

PLO Says Abu-Sharif's Opinions Nonbinding

JN0808190791 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] A PLO media spokesman has stated the following:

Brother Bassam Abu-Sharif's statements in Tunis last Sunday do not represent the views of the PLO nor express its position. They are merely personal opinions, binding on no one but their author.

Al-Sa'ih Says PNC To Meet 'Next Month'

JN0908134591 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] His eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], stated that it has been initially decided to convene the 20th regular session of the PNC in Algiers in mid-September.

His eminence added in a statement to the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY that he will leave for Tunis next Sunday to head the new council meetings, pointing out that it has been agreed in principle to keep the number of the PNC members at its present level.

He said: Naturally, new members will join the council and other members will lose their membership, as happened in previous years. As for the factions that oppose participation in the next session, he said there is a serious high level dialogue going on among the different Palestinian groups. He stressed that the crucial circumstances which the Palestine question is experiencing necessitate coordination and joint efforts as well as a dialogue which meets these circumstances.

'Arafat, al-Qadhdhafi Review Palestinian Struggle

LD0808200591 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, conferred yesterday evening with his brother Colonel Mu'Ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution. A comprehensive review of the latest developments on the Arab and international scene, particularly those relating to the Palestinian problem in all its aspects, our people's heroic struggle and its blessed intifadah to confront the occupation, as well as means for bolstering and consolidating it, was carried out during the meeting.

The meeting also offered the opportunity to carry out an intense examination of the dangers which are threatening rights and sanctities in Palestine, particularly holy Jerusalem, and the attempts to exclude and judaize Jerusalem.

PLO Leaders Discuss Conference Participation

PM0808131591 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 7 Aug 91 p 4

[Unattributed report: " 'Abd-Rabbuh Says: We Will Not Participate Unless the Jerusalem Issue Is Included"]

[Text] The PLO is intensifying its moves in the Arab and international arenas in a bid to rally support for its position in the face of the pressures facing it. An official PLO source said that the PLO sent a high ranking delegation to Cairo yesterday to confer with Egypt over the arrangement for convening a peace conference on the Middle East. The source added that a similar delegation will head for the Jordanian capital today, Wednesday.

Egypt and Jordan have agreed to participate in the conference, but the PLO is opposed to the Israeli attempts to impose conditions on Palestinian representation.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposals calls for the Palestinian representatives to be part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

The delegation sent to Cairo comprises PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) and Hakam Bal'awi, Palestinian ambassador in Tunis.

PLO Executive Committee Member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has emphasized that there has been no change in the Palestinian leadership's position, and that there will be no Palestinian participation unless Jerusalem is included as an issue and in terms of its representation, and unless a Palestinian delegation participates with equal rights like the other parties.

In a statement to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI he said that the PLO has submitted through Arab and international quarters its demands for obtaining guarantees and commitments from the United States and the Soviet Union with regard to a total withdrawal, the right to self-determination, halting settlement, and sovereignty over territory during the transitional period. He emphasized that no answer can be provided regarding participation in the conference before these demands are fulfilled.

'Abd-Rabbuh, who is one of the Palestinians who took part in the U.S.-PLO dialogue before it was frozen by the United States, said that the signals we have received from the United States regarding these guarantees are formal and marginal signals, of no considerable value, and still very far from our demands.

He pointed out that in reality the United States is still espousing the Israeli position of excluding Jerusalem and is trying trickery by promising us that this subject would be discussed at a later stage. Up until now we have not heard a frank commitment that the aim of the peace process is to effect withdrawal from the occupied territories and enable the Palestinian people to determine their destiny by themselves.

He emphasized that the PLO will not discuss the formula of joint action with Jordan before it sees a clear and convincing reply that deals with all these questions.

He said that the PLO believes that there is now a pressing need to convene an Arab meeting at the highest level, not just a five-way meeting, so that there will be total Arab commitment with regard to the foundations of a settlement and the linkage of the resolution of the Palestinian issue to Arab relations with Israel. This also should be done to ensure that everyone is committed to a unified position regarding the future of Holy Jerusalem, the focus of all Arabs' and Muslims' attention.

He broached some positive signals in the King of Saudi Arabia's position, "especially in the light of the meeting held between the Palestinian delegation headed by the head of the PLO Political Department and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at the Islamic conference. We hope that Saudi Arabia, with its substantial influence and role, will use all its capabilities for the sake of convening that Arab meeting, realizing Arab reconciliation, and drawing up the joint foundations so that we will all follow them to serve our common aims and safeguard Holy Jerusalem and all Arabs' and Muslim's rights."

PLO Executive Committee Member Sulayman al-Najjab gave a statement to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI and pointed to a world campaign designed to put pressure on the PLO to agree to a joint delegation and to participate in the conference in accordance with the Israeli conditions, in other words excluding Jerusalem as an issue and in terms of representation, continuing to build settlements, and without guarantees that the Arab and Palestinian routes are parallel and without any guarantees of any linkage between the stages of the settlement, as well as to agree to the continuation of Israeli sovereignty over the territories during the so-called transitional period.

Al-Najjab added that the Palestinian leadership is exerting efforts through its messages to all Arab leaders, the Islamic states, and the major states to emphasize its desire to make the peace efforts a success and to participate actively in them. But it believes that the Israeli conditions will not guarantee a true peace process and will not fulfill any of the Palestinian people's national rights.

The Palestinian leadership also emphasizes that its acquisition of guarantees and commitments from the states supervising the conference would enable the leadership to resolve the question of the form of Palestinian participation in the conference in a positive and acceptable way, including the subject of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

DFLP's Hawatimah Interviewed on Representation

PM0808104391 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Aug 91 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Hawatimah Tells AL-HAYAH: Moscow Does Not Agree On U.S. Formula For Palestinian Representation"]

[Text] Damascus, AL-HAYAH—Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has proposed holding free elections of the Palestinian people, emphasizing that no solution has been reached on the problem of Palestinian representation in the peace conference. He cited Moscow's disagreement with the U.S. formula for Palestinian representation. He called on Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and the group surrounding him in the Front to adopt another name, "because he is no longer part of the Democratic Front."

Hawatimah told AL-HAYAH that "so far no compromise has been reached with U.S. proposals and Israeli conditions with regard to Palestinian representation. The U.S. Administration is proposing participation by Palestinian personalities from the occupied territories, except Jerusalem, within a Jordanian delegation. It is not even proposing a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. Israel is adding conditions to that, namely that only the head of the Jordanian delegation be allowed to speak on behalf of

that delegation, that Israel is shown Jordan's address to the opening session of the conference before it is held, that the Arab delegations' heads make no reference to the PLO in their speeches, that the Palestinian flag must not be raised over the negotiating table, and that invitations to attend the conference be sent to the participating states with the exception of the Palestinians."

Hawatimah stressed his Front's and the PLO's rejection of this formula and its adherence to the "PLO's representation of the Palestinian people." He pointed out that "the formula of a joint bilateral delegation with Jordan or a tripartite delegation with Syria's participation is possible as long as the Palestinian representation decision is in the hands of the Palestinians."

He said: "Everything now depends on this point." He proposed that "free elections be held under UN supervision to enable the Palestinian people both inside and outside [the occupied territories] to elect a new national council that would determine the Palestinian delegation along the lines of what happened in Namibia and what will happen in the Western Sahara."

He said that "the PLO presented this idea to the U.S. Administration but the latter rejected it and insisted that Palestinian representation be confined to personalities approved by Israel within a Jordanian delegation."

He emphasized that the Soviet Union does not agree on the U.S. formula for Palestinian representation and that after the recent Moscow summit it declared its adherence to the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people.

On the Arab positions on the representation problem Hawatimah said that "the Arab parties are trying to pressure the Palestinian side in order to come closer to the U.S. formula." But he cited the declared Syrian positions with regard to Damascus' adherence to the Palestinian representation from both inside and outside and from Jerusalem, describing them as a "step forward." He emphasized that this step is "not the result of Syrian-Palestinian coordination, because all the meetings held in this regard produced no results. And that most contacts are conducted via the media services and they seem to have produced better results than the direct dialogue."

On the split led by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh in the Democratic Front, Hawatimah said: "Most of the Front's grass roots and organizations have emphasized their adherence to the legitimate leadership. The dissident group does not represent more than three percent of the Front's cadres." He added that "this group enjoys the encouragement of right-wing forces in the PLO for suspect political objectives." He demanded that the dissident group adopt "another name, because it is no longer part of the Democratic Front."

Bethlehem Mayor Views Conference Representation

PM0908101691 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 8 Aug 91 p 5

[Interview with Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj by Wafiq Ramadan in Washington; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Ramadan] There is much argument over Palestinian representation in the proposed peace conference, and Israel always wants to create more obstacles. What is the Palestinian position on the representation issue?

[Frayj] Let the whole world know that Israel has no desire for peace or a peace plan, especially with the Palestinians.

Israel has never spoken even once about a peaceful solution with the Palestinian people. To Israel, a settlement means the perpetuation of its control over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This is what Israel wants.

This is why Israel is fabricating false pretexts regarding Palestinian representation. Israel continually repeats that it will not allow any Palestinian citizen from among the residents of the Arab sector in Jerusalem to participate in the proposed negotiations, even though it knows that all the world's countries, including the United States, do not recognize east Jerusalem as part of Israel.

U.S. policy is clear and frank. It considers the eastern sector of Jerusalem to be an occupied area. I myself regard east Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron, and Gaza as areas occupied by the Israeli Army, and I consider UN Resolution 242 to apply to Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and all the occupied territories. Israel, however, is always trying to create obstacles.

[Ramadan] Are you more pessimistic about reaching a solution between the Palestinians and the Israelis than about reaching a solution between the Arab states and Israel?

[Frayj] Israel does not intend to withdraw from any Arab area it is occupying, whether it be the Golan, the West Bank, or the Gaza Strip—nor will it withdraw. I doubt even the possibility of its withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

If negotiations take place and if there is effective and influential U.S. participation, the chances of success will be even greater. If U.S. influence and capability are absent, however, the chances of success will be very small. [passage omitted]

[Ramadan] With regard to Palestinian representation at the peace conference, do you mind if the Palestinians are represented by a delegation that is not linked to the PLO?

[Frayj] The PLO agreed that the delegation should consist of Palestinian personalities it has approved. There is no disagreement on this issue.

[Kamadan] Regarding the anticipated peace conference, did you sense that anyone viewed this conference in a negative way during your meetings with U.S. officials ?

[Frayj] I discovered that all the ones I met with had positive expectations for the conference. [passage omitted]

[Ramadan] More than one Palestinian organization have announced over the past 48 hours their condemnation of the participation of a Palestinian delegation in the upcoming peace conference. In fact, some organizations have threatened to kill those nominated for the delegation, such as Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi. What is your opinion?

[Frayj] When one of them rejects something, he should propose an alternative.

If we reject Baker's plan and if we reject the principle of dialogue with Israel, what is the alternative? The alternative is clear, and it is what Israeli Housing Minister General Ari'el Sharon wants. Sharon wants more time in order to build more settlements and settle over half a million Soviet Jews in the occupied territories, so there would be no land left for us to negotiate over or rights for us to demand. What is the alternative?

In politics there are no slogans. There are realities. Politics is the art of the possible, not the art of dreams. I harbor great respect for Brother Faysal al-Husayni, Sister Hanan 'Ashrawi, and all those who met with Baker, and I wish them success, health, and safety.

Envoy in Rabat Criticizes U.S. Peace Plan

LD0808174991 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1555 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Rabat, 8 Aug (MAP)—Abu-Marwan, ambassador of the State of Palestine in Rabat, in a statement to the Moroccan paper EL-ALAM published today and stressed that the Maghreb states "are now committed to the Arab and Islamic resolutions pertaining to Jerusalem and the Palestinian national rights." He emphasised that this region's leaders and parties have recently expressed their position "in all frankness." He indicated that, on the surface, the U.S. initiative seems to be an initiative, but in its content reveals a "plot".

Regarding the solutions on [word indistinct] to find a formula for the participation of the Palestinians at the Middle East peace conference, Abu-Marwan said that these solutions "are worse than Camp David," emphasizing that they aim to marginalize the Palestinians. He said that, as long as the Arab states that have agreed to take part in this conference "do not state that as long as the negotiations with the Palestinians have not achieved a result—i.e. if Israel agrees to implement the principle of land for peace, there should be no final signature"—this conference will remain "a plot aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause and bypassing the political entity of the Palestinian people."

Abu-Marwan added that the PLO accepts the first principles mentioned in U.S. President George Bush's plan, which stipulate the realization of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people and Israel's security, the implementation of the land for peace slogan and Resolution 242, and the recognition that Jerusalem is an occupied land. He stressed, however, that the PLO accepts these principles "if there is a written assurance from the United States of America that the conference will achieve these goals." He pointed out that the Israeli foreign minister's statements indicate that these "principles have been abandoned."

Regarding the UN role, Abu-Marwan said that the international organization "no longer has any role whatsoever," and the Palestinians "do not pin great hopes on it." On the other hand, he stressed that "there will be no peace in the Middle East even if all Arab states recognize Israel as long as the Palestinian people does not achieve its national rights."

He added that the intifadah is "the basic force of the Palestinian people." It represents "a way of life" for the Palestinian people. He stated that "the Palestinian people will remain in a continuous state of uprising, and the Israeli enemy will continue to suffer from worry and a lack of security until it recognizes Palestinian national rights."

Radio Criticizes Efforts for Peace Conference

LD0908014991 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers: The peace conference, which was once proposed as an international one, is now a regional one under the will of the two superpowers and Israel. Concerned Arab countries have responded in accordance with the saying: Go along and follow the liar to his doorstep.

The only preoccupation of all Arab and foreign diplomatic circles is to dwell on the form of the conference and the delegates who will be sitting around its table—which might be a round one, a square one or an oblong one—a matter which might need time and more shuttle trips to the region.

It seems that the date of the conference was decided with a single stroke of a pen at the Moscow summit. The conference's venue is still an issue which wil be discussed through further contacts, consultations and moves—and maybe more tours.

In light of this, it is quite clear that all outstanding problems revolve around the protocols and the formalities of the upcoming peace conference, which still might not be definite, as the path for resolving the problem is still plagued with last minute problems.

The various contacts and consultations have all refused to deal with several matters: The topics for discussion at the conference; the scenario for the settlement—notwistanding

the size of the table and its shape; the likely outcome of the conference; and the alternatives to be considered if the conference fails in the first round of talks.

The Middle East conflict, whose root cause is the Palestinian problem, is now under a single spotlight focusing on the convening of an international conference to the exclusion of all else. The essence of the positions, the core of decisions, and the heart of the problem have all become secondary issues, and the procedures and formalities are now considered to be the primary focus. If agreed upon, these could lead Israel to withdraw from all occupied territories and agree to assure Palestinian rights. Israel might even make an official apology.

Therefore, look for the good omens, O sons of Ya'rub [first Arab king of Yemen], of a conference that will be convened and concluded without achieving anything. Therefore, O peace-loving people, rejoice at a regional conference that has yet to adapt itself to the realities of the problem and the original and ultimate issues.

Such a conference will only be symbolic and a chance to make a statement at a news conference. The fate of the conference will be like the fate of the UN General Assembly [UNGA] resolutions, the UN Security Council resolutions and those of other specialized international institutions. The problem will remain unsolved and will be lodged yet again with international and regional conferences in order to be examined at the annual festival, the so-called the meetings of the UNGA, as it is the preferred subject and good material for orators and preachers.

VOP Views Baker 'Carrot and Stick' Policy

LD0708215491 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers: He who follows U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's shuttle trips to the region—which aim at moving the peace efforts forward—notices that there are similarities in the methods used during the Gulf crisis. The U.S. secretary of state lands in the capitals of Arab states, one after the other, according to their importance, and meets with the Arab leaders to rally support and blessings for his efforts, exactly as he did in the wake of the Gulf crisis. We find that the secretary of state has been indefatigable in his efforts to achieve some accomplishments in America's interest, and Baker and Bush would be the prime political beneficiaries if these were to materialize. It peaks our interest that the U.S. secretary of state, until recently, was trying to station his armies in the Arab desert. Now, on the other hand, he is trying to use carrot and stick methods to deal with the Palestinian side, which during past and present events has been unwilling to be forced to cooperate, and which neither succumbs to gold nor to the sword.

The carrot is represented by the effort to smooth Palestinian relations with the Arab parties after they became rusty due to the Gulf crisis, and the financial, political, and moral rewards that would flow from improved relations. As for the stick, it will take the form of harrassment, whether at the level of the Palestinian presence in various arenas and restricting the field available for movement and work until the Palestinian party feels besieged, in the hope that this might make its resistance very costly and might force it to yield to the de facto situation.

It is worth remembering that the Palestinians, in confronting many previous crises, have proven that they are able to overcome them and survive them ably and skillfully. They are capable of confronting all the pressures that might be applied to them during this extremely serious stage, and then will be able to work to undermine any partial or individual solution that the United States and Israel might try to conclude with some of the region's states.

Comparison of VOP Commentary on Baker's Tour

CM0908125491

Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic on 2 August carries an editorial on pages 1 and 11 entitled "U.S. Shows on the Israeli Stage." This version has been compared with the VOP version entitled "Baker Performing on Israeli Stage" published in the 5 August Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 20, revealing the following variation:

Page 21, column one, paragraph one, sentence two reads ...a final yes?

[new paragraph] At any rate, in the wake of the Israeli response, al-Husayni will have much to say to Baker today. Furthermore, there are established constants to which Israel has yet to give the minimal positive response, particularly the issue of representation and the question of Jerusalem—which under no circumstances can we give up or postpone to a later stage under the cover of illusory promises. [new paragraph] While we see Baker's sixth tour... (supplying additional material)

Comparison of VOP Commentary on Representation

CM0908125691

Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic on 2 August carries an editorial on page 9 entitled "Shamir Yes, But." This has been compared with the VOP version entitled "Representation Issue Said Not Israel's Concern" published in the 6 August Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 15, revealing the following variation:

First column, first paragraph, first sentence reads ...[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Israel yesterday in the course of his sixth trip to the region, which is also expected to include Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco, in addition to a meeting today in Jerusalem with a number of Palestinian personalities.

[new paragraph] Baker has embarked on his current... (supplying additional material)

Egypt

Government Welcomes British Hostage's Release

NC0808151391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1452 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 8 Aug (MENA)—Egypt has expressed its great satisfaction over the release of one of the foreign hostages in Lebanon, considering that it has always opposed holding innocent people hostage in order to achieve illegitimate goals, an official source at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said today. The source said that the damage that such actions have inflicted on the the Arab nation's image is much greater than any narrow interests which the groups responsible for such actions have sought to achieve.

The source expressed Egypt's hope that the release of the foreign hostages in Lebanon would serve as an impetus to all the peace loving forces to urge Israel to release the Palestinian detainees in the occupied Arab territories and the Arab detainees in Israeli prisons.

British journalist John McCarthy was released in Lebanon today after being held as a hostage in Lebanon for six years.

Mubarak Stresses Public Ownership of Companies

NC0808164091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 8 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that the state is not getting rid of the public sector and that there are some projects which the state should leave to individuals to manage.

During his tour of the Misr al-'Amiriyah Spinning and Weaving Company plants in Alexandria, President Mubarak said: Large projects such as the al-'Amiriyah Company and others are huge establishments, and there is no objection to citizens participation through the sale of shares, with the aim of improving and renewing these projects. This is in our interest.

President Mubarak stressed the importance of reforming the financial structures of the public industrial companies in Egypt and then offering them to the public by selling shares so citizens can become shareholders and not merely amass quantities of money. He added: Our aim is not to get rid of these companies. We are not holding a "sale" to sell our country but are looking to see whether some companies need support for their financial structures and thus offer their shares in the market. He reviewed some successful examples, such as the Abu-Qir Fertilizers Company. The public holds six percent of the company's shares, the price of which has risen from 4 to 22 pounds a share. He stressed that all this is done in the interest of the citizens, who have the right to supervise and control these companies' shareholder meetings.

Referring to the importance of developing industrial companies, President Mubarak said: Our concepts must be in line with world developments. The world is progressing through these developments, and we should not be afraid to do so, as long as we are not discarding what we own or giving it to someone from overseas. He added: We are moving with patient steps toward developing our industries. We have small companies that are giving citizens the opportunity to become shareholders and manage them much better than the government. He said: As for the large public sector companies, we are completely liberating their management so that they can stand on their own feet.

President Mubarak praised the experiment of the al-'Amiriyah Weaving and Spinning Company in Alexandria, which turned loss into profit with the Misr Bank's help in reforming its financial structure and improving its management. He said that the company is now making 40 million pounds in profits and is exporting its products. [passage omitted]

Agreement Permits Turkish Oil Exploration

TA0908070291 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 2000 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] An agreement enabling the Turkish Petroleum International Company, affiliated with the Turkish Petroleum Corporation, to prospect for oil in Egypt has been signed in Cairo. The agreement was signed by Ozel Altan, director general of the Turkish Petroleum Corporation; Hamdi 'Ali 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Banbi, Egyptian minister of petroleum and mineral resources; and Mustafa Sharawi, chairman of the executive board of the corresponding Egyptian petroleum company.

According to the agreement, the Turkish firm will prospect for oil in western Egypt for four years. This period may be extended to eight years.

Comment Criticizes Israeli Conditions for Talks

NC0808154691 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Commentary by Muhammad Sharaf: "Will Israel Waste the Historic Chance of Integrating as a State in the Middle East?"]

[Text] Senior Israeli Officials have been reiterating almost every day the Israel's conditions for attending the Middle East peace conference. The latest reports on this say Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has promised the hard-line members of his cabinet to withdraw from the proposed peace conference if Syria insisted on regaining the occupied Golan Heights. Furthermore, speaking to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Foreign Minister David Levi outlined the guarantees agreed upon with the United States to make it possible for Israel to attend the peace conference.

The most important of these guarantees, according to news reports citing the Israeli foreign minister, is that Israel will not commit itself to the principle of

exchanging land for peace, and the United States will not allow the peace negotiations to be shifted to the United Nations or the Security Council. There are also conditions regarding the participation of the Palestinians in the conference, the most important of which is that the PLO will not participate in the conference, the Palestinians will be represented through a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and other known Israeli conditions.

It is generally understood that the conference and the negotiations will be held without any preconditions on either side. The two superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union, under whose auspices the conference will be held—will not have the right to intervene to impose a position on any of the parties, whether Israel or any of the Arab parties, including the Palestinians. This is generally understood., as otherwise there will be no sense in holding the conference and entering into negotiations. For example, on the news that Shamir has promised some of his ministers to withdraw from the conference if Syria insists on regaining the Golan, is it logical that Syria would not insist on regaining its territory in any negotiations or under any conditions? Does anyone imagine that Israel would ask Syria in the direct negotiations to concede the Golan to it and to conclude a peace treaty on this basis?

Some may hasten to say that yes, Israel is bold enough to demand that. In fact, it has been announcing that it will not withdraw from the Golan. But the point is: Can Syria accept this? What we want to say is that if we take the Israeli conditions and the Israeli position as a final position, there will be no sense in holding the conference and entering into negotiations.

Needless to say that the situation, as it is, is extremely delicate and complex. While it is likely that the remaining obstacles to convening the conference and holding direct negotiations—particularly the obstacle of Palestinian representation—will be overcome, the Israeli intentions are still extremely vague. All signs indicate that Israel has not made a final decision regarding the land for peace principle. It wants and is seeking to have both land and peace, but it should realize that this is impossible. There is no single Arab party, whether it is the Palestinians or the Syrians, which is ready to give up its territory and rights.

Therefore, whether it likes it or not, Israel is facing a crucial choice: Either land or peace. It is true that Israel is in a position of strength, from the practical point of view. It is actually occupying the land and can absolutely refuse to withdraw from it. It does not give any consideration to international principles and resolutions. Furthermore, it has the conventional and nonconventional military strength to adhere to its position and defend it. But the question is: Can Israel continue in its position as an alien state in the Middle East and in constant conflict with all the states in the region? Can it impose its violation of international legitimacy on the entire world?

* Al-Rayyan Check Submitted to Prosecutor

91AA0547A Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 18 Jul 91 pp 1, 8

[Article by al-Sayyid al-Ma'badi and Muhammad Munazi': "Nabih Writes Check for Value of Transaction and Hands It to Public Prosecutor; Checks for Depositors With al-Rayyan Will Be Cashed as of 1 November 1991"]

[Excerpts] Rashad Nabih, the attorney representing the buyers of al-Rayyan, announced in his latest press conference, held yesterday, that the government has ended the problem of depositors with al-Rayyan Company and has brought the deal to a successful conclusion that serves their interest.

The buyers' representative also announced that he has written a check amounting to the value of the depositors' funds, estimated at 1,539,889,000 pounds, and delivered it to the public prosecutor as a guarantee of the serious nature of the transaction. The representative admitted that he has received the buyers' checks but that they will not be deposited in the bank prior to 1 November 1991 so that disbursals can begin according to a timetable.

The following is the text of the statement issued by Rashad Nabih at the conference:

I thank and praise God for His favors and blessings and I am glad to announce today the success of the deal to return the money of clients who deposited their money with al-Rayyan companies. While declaring this, I must note facts that I had not wished to make public previously because it had been decided to cancel the deal three weeks ago following the rabid campaign launched against me and against the buyers. With that campaign, the buyers decided that it was impossible for them to operate in Egypt after they had been branded by the Egyptian press as heads of the Muslim Brotherhood organization abroad. This allegation would have threatened their wealth in Egypt if any disagreement developed between these [Islamic] tendencies and the regime in the future even though the buyers have actually no connection with any party or religious activity. [passage omitted]

I stress here that my success in making the buyers change their mind is due to my utilizing the government's position on the deal and the dollar exchange rate that has been stabilized since 19 April 1991 to protect the money involved in the deal from speculation, keeping in mind that it was well known at the time that the deal would be concluded within one month at the most. Despite this, the government has kept its promise. This confirms that it supports the buyers and that it will not act against them at any time. I will not deny that throughout a period of about 15 days I was bleeding while the press slandered my honor after the buyers had made their decision to conclude the deal. It was announced a few days ago that we were to deposit the price in the bank yesterday, acquire the necessary certificates, and

announce conclusion of the procedures tomorrow, Thursday. But something new has cropped up with the buyers who have requested delaying announcement of the conclusion of the deal for a period of three months because of new developments that they have encountered these days, which dictate that their names be kept unidentified and that nobody see the checks they have issued to me because this would make it possible to know their identity and would, in their opinion, expose their financial positions, which are still abroad, and their life to danger. This was a surprise sprung just one day before the date on which the money was scheduled to be deposited. Therefore, I made it conditional that I either collect the checks for the deal or acquaint the public prosecutor with them. They rejected it because of the same viewpoint expressed previously, namely their fear that their identities would be exposed before they could liquidate their positions abroad. Matters reached the point where I threatened to withdraw and they threatened to cancel the deal if I withdrew.

Because the deal is in Egypt's interest primarily and because belonging to Egypt imposes sacrifices on whoever believes in Egypt, I offered to collect the checks against a receipt in which I acknowledge that I shall not be entitled to submit them to be cashed prior to 1 November 1991 unless the buyers set an earlier date, which I would have to accept at any time, and that I will not permit anybody to see the checks. By then, the buyers, who are still abroad, will have arranged their affairs in a manner that will not undermine their interests when they are announced as the buyers. Meanwhile, I will have issued a check in my name to the public prosecutor covering the price of the deal, amounting to 1,539,889,000 Egyptian pounds.

With efforts, the buyers agreed to this arrangement. I presented the matter to the public prosecutor and I then informed the government authorities concerned. Everybody has cooperated in Egypt's interest and in the depositors' interest. It has been agreed that I will collect the checks from the buyers and will not submit them to be cashed until 1 November 1991. I have presented to the public prosecutor a check in my name for the sum of 1,539,889,000 Egyptian pounds. His excellency collected the check from me today. Payment to the depositors will begin after 1 November 1991 according to a timetable that will be announced at the time.

Thus, the deal to return the depositors' monies has been concluded, God be thanked. [passage omitted]

There remains an important question:

What will the legal position be if Attorney Rashad Nabih does not deposit the checks covering the value of the depositors' deposits in the bank by 1 November 1991?

Libya

Radio Reports al-Qadhdhafi, 'Arafat Meeting

LD0808020591 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Excerpt] The brother leader of the revolution yesterday met Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Offers To Help Yugoslavia

LD0708195991 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1939 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Tripoli, August 7 (TANJUG)—Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi today said in Tripoli that 'the disintegration of Yugoslavia could mark the disintegration of the Balkans, Europe and perhaps the entire world.'

At a special conferenve for Yugoslav news media, al-Qadhdhafi pointed out that the Yugoslav crisis, if it is not stopped on time, could negatively influence the present process of integration of Europe within the European Community (E.C.). Al-Qadhdhafi also assessed that the disintegration of Yugoslavia would also be damaging to Libya itself, 'the third world' and even other countries.

The Libyan leader also said he would even be willing to come to Yugoslavia personally and help in easing the crisis. Libya is a friend of all the peoples of Yugoslavia and for this reason is ready to offer all forms of help, al-Qadhdhafi underscored. Al-Qadhdhafi added that he has concrete proposals in this respect but which he cannot announce at today's news conference.

Agrreement Signed With Sudan for 'Nile Bank'

LD0808183591 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1651 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 8 Aug (JANA)—The minutes of an agreement signed today in Tripoli provide for establishing an external joint bank, to be called the "Nile Bank", between the Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Sudan. The initial signing took place in Tripoli on 12 December 1989. [passage omitted]

The minutes stipulate that all appropriate measures should be taken to implement this agreement by both sides to consolidate and manifest Arab Libyan-Sudanese integration, which is considered an advanced step on the path of achieving full Arab unity.

Opposition Leader al-Muqaryif Interviewed

PM0808100591 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Aug 91 p 5

[Bisharah Nassar and 'Ali al-Ruz report on interview with Dr. Muhammad al-Muqaryif, secretary general of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya, in London; date not given]

[Text] Dr. Muhammad al-Muqaryif, secretary general of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya (opposition), has said that the Front's relations with Arab states "are improving continuously," and that contacts with the Chadian Government "have never been interrupted."

In an interview with AL-HAYAH, he added that the Libyan opposition's position is better than in the past "despite some people's attempts to give the impression that the opposite is true." He also spoke about "many indications of possible change in the political conditions in Libya and the downfall of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi." "They include the fact that the screening operations that accompanied the opposition's march over the past three years have eliminated from our ranks a number of personalities who have never taken a genuine position opposing al-Qadhdhafi, thus eliminating a burden from our march's path."

With regard to the other indications, he cited "the degree of determination displayed by the opposition forces, especially the brother military personnel who adhered to the program designed to topple al-Qadhdhafi despite the huge difficulties that faced them in Chad and the effect of the change that occurred there on their conditions and their movement from one state to another.

He said that "the political wind in the world today confirms that there is no longer room for totalitarian and dictatorial regimes, particularly as no state has believed Col. al-Qadhdhafi's allegations about democracy, reform, and dissociation from terrorism—especially after the reports that confirmed the Libyan regime's link with various bombing incidents and its human rights violations (Amnesty International's recent report) and Britain's refusal to restore relations with Libya."

The indications, al-Muqaryif adds, also include "the records and evidence which Arab states, specifically the Maghreb states, have about the Libyan regime's actions and involvement in some of the incidents of unrest they witnessed recently."

He also emphasized that "Arab abandonment" of the Front has deprived it—although temporarily—of an important ground with regard to its political moves and program. "But the developments and indications which I have referred to earlier have brought about a change on this issue, and conditions today are much better."

He then spoke about internal conditions in Libya, emphasizing the existence of "some 4,000 to 6,000 prisoners as well as disputes among the remaining Revolution Command Council members." He said: "The Libyan security authorities executed 32 people at the end of May, and, as a result, a protest was staged in Banghazi. It was confronted by bullets, and two people were killed."

He said that al-Qadhdhafi has destroyed Libya's economy, and the "report published recently by the British magazine THE ECONOMIST on the Libyan economy proves our claim."

He denied the existence of disagreements among members of the U.S. Congress over support for the Libyan opposition. He said that "what has been reported in this regard is attributable to the disagreement that erupted when some people in Congress proposed the provision of a $5 million aid to Kenya, which hosted the opposition Libyan army that had moved from Chad. The Democrats who opposed it said that Kenya does not respect human rights and thus cannot be granted aid. We had nothing to do with that matter."

On the scale of the losses inflicted on the front as a result of losing in the Chad arena, al-Muqaryif said: "The greatest thing we lost in Chad was the last contact point on the Libyan border. But the operation of moving the military force (currently in the United States) produced many positive aspects, as it is now away from any siege or concentration in a certain point. It is also away from al-Qadhdhafi's men. Its plans and programs are totally unknown to him. In the end, we understand that struggle involves ups and downs. It is not a contractual project that ends with the change of certain conditions. The issue of the presence of our military forces on the borders with or inside Libya—if some developments take place—is a simple matter in a world in which movement has become a very quick process."

He also revealed that Col. al-Qadhdhafi made "many attempts to confine this force to a place which he can keep a close watch in one way or another." He asked King Hassan II of Morocco to mediate with Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko to host the force in Morocco, guaranteeing to him that the military personnel's families would be brought from Libya to live with them. King Hassan dispatched General Loubaris to Zaire, where he met with the Libyan military leadership, which reminded him of what happened to Libyan opponent Major 'Umar al-Buhaysh whom Rabat handed over to Tripoli in 1983, and also of what happened to Nuri Hamidah al-Fallah, director of the Front's office in Rabat, in July 1984. He was also handed over to the Libyan authorities."

He added that al-Qadhdhafi sought Egypt's mediation when the force moved to Kenya. "The Egyptian ambassador visited the opposition army's leadership and suggested moving to Egypt, provided that the military personnel's families be brought from Libya to live in Egypt amid security and political guarantees. The leadership reminded him of the Egyptian authorities' detention of brothers Jadallah Matar and 'Izzat al-Muqaryif in March 1990." He pointed out that these mediations occurred "at a time when all the Arab states, including Egypt, refused to host the military forces when conditions in Chad changed.

He said that "Sudanese elements loyal to the Khartoum regime abroad are collecting information about the

Libyan opposition. The Sudanese regime is isolated and has nobody to turn to except Libya for aid."

On uniting Libyan opposition groups over a specific program, al-Muqaryif said that "in the past period the nature of the battle, its requirements, and the groups' influence played a part in the fragmentation and deadlock. Among the positive aspects of the past is the fact that the screening operation has rid us of negative elements. The spirit we are experiencing today is a spirit of mutual correspondence and solidarity. We say that it is the spirit which will seriously and sincerely establish party pluralism in Libya in the future."

Western Sahara

Polisario Ambassador Describes Moroccan Attacks

LD0808204191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Tension has returned to the Western Sahara conflict at a time when all were getting close realizing the hope of finding a political solution to the conflict and of holding the referendum, the self-determination referendum which will be supervised by the United Nations. The Saharan ambassador has explained the situation in the Western Sahara in the shadow of the Moroccan attacks on the towns of Tifariti and Meheiris.

[Begin recording] [Ambassador] I say in addition to what the press has said today, that the Moroccan Air Force has not only carried out another attack, but it has attacked the town of Tifariti for the second time, plus has carried out a third attack on the town of Meheris during the last two days. As I said before, these very fierce attacks targeted the civilians in these two towns, civilians who are present in these regions primarily because they need drinking water in this very harsh summer in this region. These attacks express what we have said and what the Moroccans have also admitted—that Morocco has a comprehensive plan to launch an intensive attack on these regions, and, according to Morocco, this attack in the coming days will not be only an aerial attack, but an air-land attack.

[Correspondent] Mr. Ambassador: Could you please, if possible, give us a brief view of the result of this attack on the civilians.

[Ambassador] Until now, I do not have details about the result of this attack, because the region is remote and information is slow to arrive. But I can say that an attack of this kind, as you know, must result in substantial losses, especially among the civilians. The biggest loss is that this attack will force civilians to flee from these water-rich regions to arid regions which have no drinking water, exposing them to the full harshness of the summer.

[Correspondent] Mr. Ambassador, what do you think the Moroccan military position in the Western Sahara will be, and what is the significance of these military operations which come at a time when the United Nations and the African continent are preparing to enter a peaceful phase?

[Ambassador] Of course I said a comprehensive attack—and we are simply confirming what was said two days ago by the Morrocan Government's official spokesman and by the attacks that we have survived in the Sahara. As to the Moroccan Army's position, which used to observe the cease-fire we declared a year ago, coexistence has today changed everything [as heard] and returned to the battlefield, and this substantially contradicts what we were expecting and what the United Nations was expecting, especially considering the progress during the days when the implementation of the peace plan had begun with the presence of United Nations delegation in the Western Sahara. The repercussions of this operation are clear: First, to deal a blow to the referendum's foundation. The foundation of the referendum is the human factor, and this human factor is now under attack. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Ambassador, if you do not mind, will these developments in the military arena lead to a change in the Polisario's position toward the peace process?

[Ambassador] We hope very much that the peace plan will be carried out as expected regardless of any obstacles placed by the other party. We hope that the United Nations will protect its resolutions, and we still have high hopes that the truce we declared last year will continue to prevail and that the other party will respect it. [end recording] [In a similar report earlier in the same newscast, the Saharan ambassador adds: "Polisario Secretary General Mohamed Abdelaziz has called for the urgent intervention of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar to put an end to the escalation of the Moroccan forces' aggressive posture."]

Kuwait

UN Told Iraq Maintains Aggressive Policy

LD0808190291 London KUNA in Arabic 1604 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] United Nations, 8 Aug (KUNA)—The State of Kuwait has told the United Nations today that the Iraqi regime has not yet abandoned its aggressive and expansionist policies toward Kuwait, a matter which constitutes a flagrant violation of the obligations it undertook in accordance with UN Security Council [UNSC] Resolution 687.

This came in a message addressed by Muhammad Sa'd al-Sallal, acting charge d'affaires at the Kuwaiti permanent mission, to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. He asked that it be circulated as an official document of the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council. The message came in reply to the statements by Ibrahim Shuja' Sultan al-Nidawi, ambassador of the Iraqi regime to Romania, to the Romanian LIBERTATEA newspaper in which he claimed that "Kuwait is part of Iraq, and the sacrifices that were made stemmed from this belief." The Iraqi ambassador also claimed that "the unity operation between Iraq and Kuwait has constituted a step in this historic direction."

Al-Sallal said in reply to these claims that they "show in a flagrant manner that the Iraqi regime has not at all given up its expansionist and aggressive policies toward Kuwait and the region. They also show that they constitute a flagrant violation of Iraqi undertakings in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 678 for the year 1991. The Kuwaiti diplomat stressed that the "policies of the Iraqi regime toward Kuwait and the region, and its practices which are aimed at evading, and procrastinating over, the implementation of the provisions of the UNSC resolutions require the highest level of vigilance and caution on behalf of the international community, as well as the maintenance of the firmness and determination of the UNSC in forcing Iraq to implement fully and meticulously the will of the international community."

Yemen

Minister, French Firms Discuss Oil Exploration

JN0808151791 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Brother Salih Abu-Bakr Husaynun, minister of oil and mineral resources, met in Paris yesterday with officials from the French Elf Aquitaine company. Discussions dealt with the progress of work in Shirhin and preprations currently under way for drilling which will begin early next December.

The minister of oil and mineral resources also conferred with officials from the French Total company on the activities the company is carrying out in the (?south) and the current preparations to drill a first exploratory well. The meeting reviewed the program for the survey of eastern Shabwah, which the company will conduct soon.

The meetings were attended by Dr. 'Ali Usamah Husayn, our country's ambassador to France, and members of the technical delegation accompanying the minister.

IAEA Says Iraq Able To Make Enriched Uranium

AU0808183791 Paris AFP in English 1755 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Vienna, Aug 8 (AFP)—International Atomic Energy Agency experts investigating Iraq's nuclear capabilities have found an installation containing equipment that could have been used to produce enriched uranium "to make atomic bombs", IAEA spokesman David Kyd said here Thursday.

The installation, near Baghdad, housed four centrifuges, although IAEA experts found no trace of an operational capacity, he said. He noted that although there were signs of progress in Iraq's ability to produce enriched uranium, methods used were "still at the development stage.

The location of the installation will only be divulged after the return of the current mission to Iraq next week and the publication of a report on its activities, Kyd said. The team is the fourth to visit Iraq under the terms of a cease-fire treaty signed at the end of the Gulf war in February.

'Text' of Saddam Address to al-Qadisiyah Men

JN0908085791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 8 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has said that Iraq triumphed on this great day [end of the Iraq-Iran war] thanks to Almighty God's will and the determination of the zealous and honest believers, the possessors of the honest position and the deep belief. The president added that this was the march of belief in declared principles and that no one could describe any of the slogans of this march as erroneous. The president said: On this day, which the Iraqis are celebrating, the faces of the believers are luminous and victory shines in their eyes. The president greeted the al-Qadisiyah men and all believers, who have the right to life and who are confident that the believers' will can achieve everything except that which God opposes.

Addressing the al-Qadisiyah men, the president said: Your victory was the ground on which your people and their Armed Forces have stood fast until today and will stand until the time when God allows the defeat of the way of thinking of those who harbored evil for Iraq in the mother of battles.

These statements came when President Saddam Husayn received Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, defense minister; Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs; Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Ma'ini, minister of transport and communications; members of the Armed Forces General Command; high-ranking officers of the Armed Forces; and corps commanders. All these fighters were members of the Armed Forces General Command, occupied high positions in the Armed Forces, or were corps commanders from 15 April 1988 when the Iraqi forces rushed to liberate al-Faw, the city of sacrifice and the gate of the decisive great victory, to 8 August 1988. They had the honor to appear in the last frame of Saddam's glorious al-Qadisiyah epic. The meeting was attended by Hatim Hamdan, chief of the presidential office.

The following is the text of President Saddam Husayn's address:

May God bestow His blessings on those attending on this day, the third anniversary of your people's and Armed Forces' victory over the forces of despotism and aggression.

When certain people erred in their calculations, they concluded that the confrontation was endless. Those who were affected by the Western and Zionist media believed that the aggressive forces in Iran, not Iraq, would triumph, but Iraq triumphed thanks to Almighty God's will and the determination of the zealous and honest believers, the possessors of the honest position, and the deep belief.

Iraq did not triumph just because it denied the aggressors the opportunity to achieve their objectives, which are the same objectives of the broader aggression in which over 30 states officially participated.

I say Iraq not only denied the aggressors the possibility of achieving the objectives they sought to achieve and which are now being publicly declared in certain rulers' abodes, which are void of virtue and human decency, Iraq also scored a material and tangible military victory, and the enemy was crushed, as it officially admitted then through broadcasts and public documents. We tell this to all those who used to listen to the tendentious Western and Zionist media and became so influenced that they failed to confirm the lessons they should have learned and to remember the erroneous conclusions they drew about the march of the great Iraqi people, the march of their faithful, valiant Armed Forces, and the march of those who are leading the march. [passage omitted]

All of you in this hall today, as well as Lieutenant General Nizar 'Abd-al-Karim al-Khazraji, absent today because of illness, and Lieutenant General Mahir 'Abd-al-Rashid, one of the commanders of the al-Faw liberation operations who is also ill—they both witnessed the final chapter of this war, as Mahir took part in the battle for the liberation of al-Faw and Lt. Gen. Nizar was the chief of staff during all the battles of liberation—remember what the psychological condition of our Armed Forces and people was like following the East Qarun battles, including the battles over the two bases that were on the Shaykh Budayr road.

The East Qarun, the West Qarun, and then the al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr] battles followed the Shush-Dezful battles and other battles. All of you remember what the psychological condition of our Armed Forces and the people was like after these battles.

Some of you—I say some, not all of you, because some of you were not following what the Western Zionist media were saying and what conclusions they drew—and I recall how they were talking about the fall of Baghdad in hours and days. As for al-Basrah, they gave the impression that its fall was inevitable. [passage omitted]

Conclusions continued to be drawn with every new Iranian buildup, every new mobilization, and every new battle. All were saying that the Iranians had seized the initiative and that Iranian superiority, according to classical traditional considerations, would win, but God willed a certain something, and the will of God is greater than any other will. Moreover, there are people who believe in the will of God. God Almighty loves faithful, courageous men. When they proceed to take a step, God helps them to the next step.

The will of God was great. The believers' effort paid off, and they witnessed victory on 8 August 1991, a day all Iraqis celebrate, a day when we meet with the men who had a conspicuous role in the last chapter of the second glorious al-Qadisiyah.

God bless you and all those who believe in their right to live and who believe that the will of the believers is capable of achieving anything on earth that is not objected to by God Almighty. Let the lessons of the great historic eight-year showdown between truth and falsehood be present in the mind of anyone of shaky faith. Everyone should believe that the future is ours today and will be ours, God willing. All the conspiracies raising the same slogans will fail. As noted by comrade 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin yesterday, just as the slogans raised in the previous showdown were defeated, the same slogans raised by the failures in the White House will be defeated, God willing. [passage omitted]

Government Rejects Second French Draft Resolution

JN0908103191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1018 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Aug (INA)—Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi has announced that Iraq categorically rejects the second version of the French draft resolution submitted to the UN Security Council because the draft resolution does not provide the financial resources, even at a minimal level, to meet the needs of our people in terms of food, medicine, and important humanitarian equipment.

Hammadi added: This draft resolution completely opposes the exercise of national sovereignty over the country's resources—the most important of which is oil—and brings them under foreign control, which is in fact the control of the old colonialist countries even if they act under cover of the Security Council.

In a statement to INA, Dr. Sa'dun Hamamdi said: The draft resolution continues the encroachment on Iraq's sovereignty. It gives these countries control over a very serious matter; namely, control over the so-called internal distribution of materials purchased with these resources based on a false pretext: concern for their fair distribution. Meanwhile, these countries are the cause of the destruction of our civilian and economic facilities and they are the ones carrying out the siege from which all sectors of our people throughout Iraq, especially the children, the retarded, the sick, and the old, are suffering. This situation has become common knowledge throughout the world.

Dr. Hammadi noted that the mechanism the draft resolution sets up for marketing oil, depositing the proceeds, or purchasing food and medicine makes it very difficult to realize any significant progress in Iraq obtaining these materials to deal with the people's suffering.

Hammadi said that based on these facts, the process will eventually be symbolic and not a real means of tackling the situation.

The prime minister emphasized that the colonialist powers do not hide their hostility to our country and are not concerned with our people's suffering. Rather, they are concerned with raising money to finance the inspection committees' operations and obtain the other deductions for which the UN Security Council resolutions provide. They want to solve their current financial problems at the Iraqi people's expense and with their national resources in such a way that it infringes upon the country's sovereignty, independence, and dignity. Therefore, it should be made clear to everyone and regardless of the circumstances that the Iraqi Government categorically rejects the draft resolution in its present form and holds the colonialist powers that stand behind it fully responsible for the subsequent suffering of our people.

Dr. Hammadi noted that the correct humanitarian solution is to lift the economic siege which is no longer justified on any legal or humanitarian consideration now that the Kuwait issue is closed and Iraq has accepted the Security Council resolutions and consented to implement their provisions.

Prime Minister Assesses Post-Crisis Situation

JN0808083891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8-9 Aug 91 pp 4, 5

[Interview with Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Lamis Andoni in Baghdad "on the eve of the first anniversary of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait"]

[Text] [Andoni] What is the leadership's assessment a year after Iraq went to Kuwait? Was there a reassessment of the action? Do you think it was a mistake, at least from a tactical point of view? Could you have avoided going into Kuwait?

[Hammadi] I really do not prefer to talk about the past, for many reasons. To begin with, we have been very candid about the issue and put forward all of our

arguments concerning its various aspects. I do not think that there has been any ambiguity that would prompt us to clarify our position. Secondly, our opinion remains the same: there has been no change in our opinion that warrants explanation. If there are people who disagree with our opinion, this is normal. I personally think that talking about the past is an academic exercise. We are better off discussing the present and the future... The United Nations Security Council has adopted resolutions. Regardless of what we really think about these resolutions or whether we are satisfied with them or not, and regardless of our opinion, we have accepted them. If the issue is whether the resolutions were fair or not, we do have an opinion about that. But if the question concerns our acceptance of these resolutions, we have accepted the resolutions. We are implementing all of the resolutions, no more and no less. We believe that (for the sake of) Arab Iraqi interests we should not talk about the past. But to discuss the present and the future does not mean that when the dust settles we will not have a reassessment of everything. My observation is that Western journalists and media deliberatley focus on the past (so as) to drag us into saying something that could be used (against us) in a way to justify claims that Iraq is not abiding by the Security Council resolutions. This is why I prefer not to talk about the past.

[Andoni] But these questions are also being asked by the Arab people, especially the masses who supported Iraq. They feel that there are many gaps and many questions that remain unanswered. Many of Iraq's supporters now feel that Iraq was baited into a trap. Why did not Iraq withdraw prior to the Jan. 15 deadline if it had ended up withdrawing later?

[Hammadi] We are sure that there was a plot against Iraq. We have talked about that over and over again. There was evidence that the war was deliberate against us. I have written five articles about the subject... (at this point he turned around and picked Sallinger's book from a table behind his desk). Although I disagree with this book's interpretation and there are many errors in it, the main theme of this book is that the war did not start from a vacuum. There were motives behind launching the war against Iraq, including the conspiracy against us and attempts to destroy (this country) by all means because it had emerged victorious and strong from its war with Iran.

They (the West) were annoyed by Iraq's clear and unequivocal policy towards the Palestinian cause, and by the Iraqi determination to adhere to an independent foreign policy.

This is very clear. But as to the questions concerning the events that led up to the withdrawal and other issues partaining to the same theme. We have not so far made a technical and military reassessment of what had happened. We do think that at this stage such a reassessment is irrelevant. We think it is a technical question.

[Andoni] But the main question concerns the political decision to withdraw. What happened in the last 48 hours? Is it true that you thought that the allies would not launch the ground battle if you agreed to pull out from Kuwait?

[Hammadi] I have already said that I do not want to discuss these issues now.

[Andoni] Since the ceasefire the Iraqi leadership has vowed to carry out democratisation in the country. So far people here do not feel that there have been concrete steps towards political openness. Why is the process so slow?

[Hammadi] It is inaccurate that there have been no concrete steps (towards democratisation). In fact an extremely important step has been achieved but has not been disclosed and announced yet. I am referring to the parties' law. After the end of our war with Iran we formulated a parties' law and concept for pluralism in Iraq. The aim was to transform the revolutionary (government) institutions into constitutional institutions. The leadership had then vigorously worked on the parties' law in accordance with a decision taken in the eighties.

But the war with Iran hindered the process. When the war came to an end a new parties' law and a draft press law were formulated. The two laws constituted an important step towards the development of our institutions. The Gulf crisis, however, again interrupted the process. Everything came to a halt. After the end of the crisis and the rebellion the emphasis shifted again to the democratisation process and the need to move from revolutionary system to a constitutional system—I refer here to the form of institutions. After the crisis the parties law was reviewed. As a result of this revision a substantive modification was made on the previous draft which was formulated after the Iraqi-Iranian war. But we still have another important issue to tackle which has not been finalised yet—the question of negotiations with the Kurdish parties. The negotiations have gone a long way but they have not concluded yet. Consequently we have preferred that the parties' law be formulated and readied. I mean that the issue (the parties' law) is linked with the conclusion of the negotiations with the Kurdish parties. This is why the law has not been ratified or announced yet. But the parties' law has been formulated and all of the legislative steps have been taken to put it into effect. This is certainly a step towards democratisation that cannot be underestimated. The same applies to the constitution which was also drawn up after the end of the war with Iran. The constitution is also being studied again in the same direction. These are not steps to be underestimated.

[Andoni] What are the changes and modifications on the parties' law? How will they affect political life in this country? Can you cite any specific modifications?

[Hammadi] They are related to the issue of pluralism. The (old) law, which had been drafted after the war with

Iran, has certainly been developed. The modifications have been drawn up as a result of consultations with other political trends.

[Andoni] Could you be more specific? Do the modifications include less restrictions on the political parties that will be allowed?

[Hammadi] I do not think that it is appropriate to talk about the details now. As you can see, the country is passing through (difficult) conditions. It is good and fruitful for us to consider and to discuss issues like the constitution, the parties' law and pluralism even though we are facing difficult conditions such as the economic embargo and the fact that the dialogue with the Kurdish parties has not been finalised.

All I can say that the development of the parties' law has been very positive.

[Andoni] What is really delaying a final agreement with the Kurdish parties? Is it differences over the concept of pluralism? Kurdish leaders have said that they have submitted a paper that outlined their own understanding of pluralism. Where have the negotiations reached?

[Hammadi] It is true that negotiations with the Kurdish parties have taken a longer period than expected. But taking into account the issues involved and the prevailing conditions more time was needed.

[Andoni] Again, can you be more specific? What are the major differences...?

[Hammadi] We have to remember the backdrop to the negotiations. Throughout the previous period we have been fighting (each other). Thus we have not started from a peaceful point for the process to be an ordinary one. There were further complications that have been imposed by the American aggression, the internal sabotage activities which had followed, the external pressures being exerted on Iraq and the economic embargo. If we start with such a background it is only natural to expect such a delay. You also have to remember that we have to tackle many issues at the same time. We have [to] tackle the problem of the international embargo, security, how to deal with the Security Council resolutions and many other important issues. If they (the negotiations) were conducted under different circumstances, it would have taken less time. What is really important is that there is a continuous progress, and this is what counts.

[Andoni] But how has the leadership's view changed, if it has, about the role of the Kurdish parties, which have always been accused of being manipulated by foreign governments and now that they are here in Baghdad, negotiating with the government?

[Hammadi] The discussions with all of the political trends in the north of the country aim at finding a new common ground or establishing new principles that will be acceptable to them. The important thing is that we are confident that there is a genuine desire (on the part of the Kurdish parties) to find a nationalist solution for the problem that will preserve national unity. For our part, we cannot but welcome such a position by the Kurds. We cannot but accept such a nationalist attitude. If we choose to allow the past to affect our judgement of the present or of the future, then we shall have a complicated future and complicated present. We have to look forward to the future. Regardless of the past we want to reach an agreement on the basis of principles. Our assessment is that their (the Kurdish parties) position has been positive.

[Andoni] It seems that the situation in the north is relatively clearer than in the south. Do you think that the unrest in the south created or deepened sectarianism among the Shiites, especially that the information available suggests that in addition to the Iranian role there were also (anti-government) demonstrations in the south? Do you think that this discontent could be transformed into sectarian sedition or strengthen the Iranian influence on the Iraqi Shiites?

[Hammadi] First and foremost you have to remember that we have gone through very difficult times. Iran had tried to exploit these hardships to incite people and nourish sectarian sentiments. People were suffering from the war. Public services were paralysed (by the allied bombardment). There was no communications. Electric plants were destroyed. Those were all important factors that could not but create (political) confusion among some people. Moreover, in every society there are people who are impatient, weak, or people, who harbour sectarian inclinations. There were also those who were mainly influenced by the pressures of the hardships. Those were factors which could not but influence people who slipped and deviated from the nationalist path. There was those who deviated because they had illusions. But as soon as the reconstruction started, public services started being restored, the majority of those people who took part in those demonstrations admitted their mistake.

There was definitely a moving force behind what had happened in the south and there were tools used by this force. It is doubtless to say that the moving force in the south was foreign. The tools were both foreign and domestic. I have already explained the problems which had helped in finding the internal (domestic) tools. We are still tackling these problems so that what happened will not be repeated again.

[Andoni] But do you think that the unrest in the south has deepened sectarianism among the Iraqi Shittes or has the Iranian influence been strengthened in the south?

[Hammadi] No, we do not believe that they (the Iranians) have succeeded in doing that. To the contrary, during the Iranian-Iraqi war Iran used to address our people through its media (it had Arabic television and radio services). It used to try to draw to our people an idealistic model of the Iranian regime. It was trying to exploit people's religious feelings and principles to reach out to the people. Our people did not know of Iran

except what they heard from its media and the confrontation at front: An army facing another army. But during (last spring's) events our people had a first-hand and tangible experience with Iran, for they (the Iranians and pro-Iranian elements) had controlled the cities (in the south) for a period of time, and our people saw their deads and how they dealt with people. In other words our people had the chance to experience, albeit for a short period of time, the Iranian brand of Islamic system. Or at least they experienced a microcosm (namouzaj mousaghar) or a mini-model of the Iranian regime. Our people had never seen such thing first-hand before.

For example, when the Iranian agents controlled Karbala' for 13 days and perpetrated what they did in 13 days their practices were incredible and unprecedented in terms of repression, savagery and ugliness. Therefore the events did not succeed in forging closer ties between our people and the Iranian regime... and did not create a sectarian problem in Iraq. The events had exposed the reality of that regime.

[Andoni] That brings back to the war. What did the Iraqi leadership really expect from Iran? Last week President Saddam Husayn described Iran as the poisonous dagger. Does that mean that the Iranian leaders had made to you promises before the war that they had reneged on after the war?

[Hammadi] I will not go into details. But the Iranian position (before the war) was mainly dictated by the Iranian people's sentiments. They had to accommodate the popular sentiments (in Iran). If they did not the Iranian people would have deplored any different position that would have contradicted the anti-imperialist slogans that the Iranian regime had put forward. The Iranian leadership could not then swim against the popular current; and consequently, their position in general was positive. That positive Iranian position had then broken the psychlogical barrier (between Iran and Iraq) and we (both governments) became close. It seems now that at the time when they were taking such a position positive in appearance they were secretly planning something contrary to their public statements that they were not ready to exploit the conditions against Iraq. What happened later was exactly the opposite.

[Andoni] I want [to] go back to the issue of democracy. Nobody expects big changes in Iraq overnight, but the impressions that journalists get here is that so far the leadership's promises of democracy have not been very successful in breaking the barrier of fear. Is the leadership aware of or agrees with this conclusion? How do you explain this phenomenon of fear here?

[Hammadi] We believe that it is just a matter of time and such issues will be solved. Can't you see changes in the Iraqi press? The process will continue. I do not see a reason for fear except for imagining and that some memories of the violent events which took place immediately after the war are still very fresh in people's minds. The memories of fighting, using arms and other actions, are still there. Perhaps these memories create this fear that you are talking about. Remember that there are other serious problems that create psychological impacts on people: First and foremost the economic embargo against Iraq. I do not think that the democratisation process is slow; it is just that the leadership has too many things to handle at once—things that are caused by the economic embargo. But I believe that in time things will become clearer.

[Andoni] The West, especially the U.S., has made it clear that the economic embargo will not completely be lifted until the regime and President Saddam Husayn are out. Taking into consideration the international political isolation of Iraq, what is the standing of the regime and its chances for survival as you see it?

[Hammadi] The regime is strong and will survive. The (Americans) may be determined but that does not mean that they shall attain everything they like. In our opinin the coordinates indicate that the situation is progressing in our favour. If you compare the situation today with the situation last week you see a constant progress—on all levels. They simply cannot achieve everything they want. For example as time elapses, we are not the only ones to suffer from the international embargo; other parties are suffering and they have already started to voice their resentments. There are more voices and demands now for an end to the embargo. Arguments are raised by many against the sanctions and more and more people (in the world) are saying that there is no justification for keeping the embargo after the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

[Andoni] Do you mean to say you believe that time is in your favour?

[Hammadi] It is definitly not against us.

[Andoni] But the pressures are mounting. There are almost daily accusations that Baghdad is not fully abiding by the Security Council resolutions concerning its mass destruction weapons.

[Hammadi] (Smiling in a dismissive manner): We do not believe that there is any ambiguity regarding Iraq's adherence to the Security Council resolutions. Our decision to implement the resolutions is irreversible. We are implementing the resolutions. I believe that eventually they will have to reconsider and change their position.

[Andoni] You seem convinced that time is in your favour, but how will these pressures affect the Iraqi people who are being told by the U.S. government—that the situation will only change when the president is removed.

[Hammadi] The Iraqi people themselves throughout the crisis—and this was reported by western journalists—have expressed support for the regime. I believe that the Iraqi people support the president and cling to him more than ever. They are aware that the president has been the

primary factor in keeping the country's unity. The president has been the primary factor in the reconstruction process and the restoration of public facilities and services after the war. I personally believe that the vast majority of our people support the president. And if the Americans will continue to use this language, the only reaction here will be the reinforcement of national identity, commitment and unity. For each and every nationalist Iraqi realises that the American language is directly encroaching upon and violating Iraqi dignity and Iraqi national will. In fact the more the Americans keep up their rhetoric the clearer it becomes to the Iraqi people that the target is the patriotism and nationalism of the president. This will only reinforce the president's national credentials and his popularity. It will reinforce a positive and nationalist position even among those who differ in their opinion or interpretations (with the regime). Some are even saying that they now support the regime because it is being targeted for its nationalist positions.

[Andoni] In your statements and a series of articles you wrote, you indicated that Iraq can still maintain its pan-Arab nationalist position despite the destruction of its military ability. Do you think Iraq can play the same role in Arab politics that it was playing prior to the war, or what role do you envisage for Iraq?

[Hammadi] First of all I have to clarify that Iraq had not been trying to play the role of the leader of the Arab World. Iraq was trying to get the Arab countries together, or some of the Arab countries, in the nationalist direction. Therefore Iraq took the initiative and was persistent in returning Egypt to the Arab fold. It was also persistent in efforts to strengthen the Arab League and took part in the Arab Cooperative Council... Iraq was not trying to take the lead... but was preaching principles of an independent Arab foreign policy. Iraq has not changed: It still believes in the same goals and principles. It still believes in the liberation of Palestine, in social justice, in social development, in setting up a new fairer economic system that caters to the needs of the poorer working classes. Iraq still believes in good relations among Arab states, in a strong Arab League, in joint Arab action. Nothing has altered in our position. What has changed is the means and not the goals or principles. Iraq has now less economic and financial means but its position remains the same. But even with the means available we are confident that this line, the independent, nationalist trend, represents the future of the Arab World—not any other.

[Andoni] But practically Iraq's role in enforcing such goals have been weakened while the other camp has prevailed. What role can Iraq play under these conditions, if any?

[Hammadi] I believe that if the position is to be judged from the viewpoint of political principles, Iraq's standing has not been weakened but has been strengthened. These are not just words, but the war as we see it Iraq has paid the price for its political principles and has not succumbed. We have paid a price but we still are committed to the same positions. It is true that the U.S.' influence in the region is stronger than it was before. The growing influence of the U.S. in the region and in the world is primarily the result of the end of the cold war and the rivalry between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. But eventually this growing influence will backfire, for the U.S. is trying and will continue to try to monopolise the world. The Americans will not be fair or just in dealing with the world's nations. We are witnessing a return to old political and economic colonialist practices and policies. In the past the competition between the U.S. and the Soviet Union had served to curb colonialist practices... but they (the Americans and the West) are reverting to these practices.

What will these practices lead to? They will only lead to provoking the world's nations. We do not believe that eventually the world's nations will submit to such arrogant, tyrannical practices. The Iraqis and the Palestinians are already experiencing this American tyranny every day. Other nations will also suffer and will reject there practices. The reaction of the U.S. to this resistance will not be peaceful but very violence. [as published] This is why we do not agree that American influence will bring about peace to the region.

I do not think that the region is approaching peace; quite the opposite, the region is nearing an era of tension. Even if the U.S. was able to attain the peace they are talking about, the only peace that area will witness, if any, will [be] the peace of hegemony, or what can be called Roman peace. The peace of hegemony is never a lasting peace, it is temporary. It will eventually crack up. The seeds of tension have been already planted in the region. The tension has already started.

I will like to tell you something about myself, which might be indicative of the mood in the region. I have always tried to be rational and objective—I might not have always succeeded but I have always tried to. Now I do not deny that it has become difficult everyday for me to maintain my objectivity. My difficulty in maintaining an objective approach is due to the tyranny and arrogance of the U.S. and the Western politicians. What I am trying to say is that the West is wrong if it believes that by reverting to colonialist and tyranical practices it will reinforce moderation and objectivity in any part of the world.

The reaction to the current Western policies will be exactly be the opposite. These practices, (by the West) will only reinforce bitterness and consequently extremism.

Therefore it is true that the U.S.' influence has grown stronger but it will be met with people's resistance, especially if the U.S. continues its interference in other countries' affairs in the name of protection. This does not only apply to the U.S. policy in the region but also in Europe and particularly Eastern Europe. Who is creating tensions in Yugoslavia and in other parts of Eastern

Europe? They are trying to change Eastern Europe to a market for western goods...no more. Thus American policies will conflict and have to confront people's resistance everywhere.

[Andoni] Yet the pro-American governments in the region have also become stronger. How do you see the future balance of power in this region?

[Hammadi] They will regret their policies. These policies are conceited. These governments have not learned any lessons from the past. They have not learned a lesson from the examples of the fate of King Faruq in Egypt and the monarchy in Iraq, or any regime that remained subordinate to the colonialists in the post-World War II era.

What they do not understand is that people have not changed. If anything, people have become more politically aware than in that period. Those who do not learn from history cannot understand the present or the future.

If they really cared about their people and were farsighted they would have realised that the U.S. cannot be the guardian or the protector of this region, its people, its resources or its oil. The only policy that we in Iraq accept is that which will enhance Arab independence. We are not calling for a confrontation with the U.S. but there is a clear difference between capitulation and pursuing an independent policy. We would like to ask them what is the aim of supporting the weakening of Iraq. How can the undermining of Iraq serve Arab independence and interests?

How can the embargo against Iraq serve Arab interests? If the aim is to undermine the regime this is sheer nonsense. As an official, the embargo is hurting me less than it is affecting the ordinary Iraqi. Why are they trying to hurt the Iraqi people? How can that serve Arab interests?

[Andoni] Do you think that the Ba'thist party in Iraq has been seriously weakened? What is the future of the party, and how can it revive its role on the grassroot level?

[Hammadi] The way to do that (strengthening the party) is to allow competition by other parties. We are talking about competition that can stimulate the party's organisations.

[Andoni] What do you mean by competition? Do you mean that political parties will be confined to competing with the Ba'thist party, but cannot be allowed to form a government?

[Hammadi] No, we may be ready to share power with another party if the situation allows and if there was such a party.

[Andoni] What about the future of the Iraqi Communist Party. Is it true that it will be banned?

[Hammadi] I think that the Iraqi Communist Party can find a formula which will allow it to work (in the new set-up). But it has to solve its problems as it has suffered splits.

Kurdish Parties Denounce Turkey's 'Criminal Acts'

JN0908101591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] Irbil, 9 Aug (INA)—The Kurdish parties affiliated with the Kurdistan Front yesterday met in the city of Shaqlawah, Irbil Governorate, in northern Iraq. The representatives of the Kurdish parties delivered speeches denouncing the criminal acts carried out by the Turkish authorities against Iraqi Kurds. In these, they killed Kurds in the border areas on the pretext that they were pursuing Kurdish Workers' Party members, thus violating the border and infringing upon Iraqi territory.

Minister Interviewed on Results of ICO Meeting

JN0808155091 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Telephone interview with Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs, in Istanbul, by Muhammad al-Sharif in Amman; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Sharif] Dr. al-Sahhaf, after five days of general negotiations at the foreign ministers' conference of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], what is your evaluation of these discussions, especially regarding the Iraqi proposals?

[Sahhaf] Brother Muhammad, the working agenda of the meetings of the 20th ICO foreign ministers' conference contained many paragraphs, most of which have been agenda topics for years. Therefore, the Republic of Iraq's stand is the same as before: to exert concerted efforts to realize effective and influential formulas in the service of the Islamic nation and peoples, especially considering the interests of the Islamic peoples, who are suffering not only from problems of development but also drought and other problems. Therefore the Iraqi delegation was very active in working for the interests of the Islamic peoples in all parts of the agenda that deal with economic, social, and cultural aspects.

On the political level, we noticed two currents. One current is loyal to the issues of Islamic nations and calls for solidarity and unity and for being alert for the great challenges currently confronting the Islamic nation—that being where a superpower unilaterally arranges the affairs, countries, and peoples of the world.

The second current, unfortunately, is a current that submits to the policies of this superpower. This second current is marked by the fomenting of fragmentation and attempts to splinter the Muslim ranks. Nevertheless, the bottom line is that there are a growing number of voices

attempting to make the current of fragmentation understand that this is dangerous for the common interests of the people of the Islamic nation.

Such action needs continuity to make these people understand the reality of the dangers that threaten everyone. This conference, therefore, is a conference which has an element of confrontation in it, perhaps not very strong but a kind of expression of opinion by those who are loyal to the causes of the Islamic nation.

As you definitely know, we are on the side of the current that wants to defend the interests of the Islamic nation and its people. Therefore, the Iraqi delegation worked actively and effectively to develop this current. In general, and simply put, we will continue to work objectively along with all our friends, especially the delegation from fraternal Jordan, which truly lifted the banner of solidarity in an attempt to make others see the dangers confronting our Islamic nation.

Therefore, we will adhere to our pledge, honest Muslims who defend their joint causes. This is my evaluation of the stand.

[Al-Sharif] Mr. Minister, regardless of the fact that the conference refused to put the item of lifting the siege of Iraq on its agenda, through the bilateral contacts you held did you find a substantial response to the Iraqi proposals among the delegations you met with on the sidelines of the conference?

[Al-Sahhaf] Mr. Muhammad, the majority did not support this unjust stand which wants to keep the siege on the Iraqi people and country—the country that has hoisted the banner of Islam over the centuries. There were many voices demanding that the siege on the Muslim Iraqi people be lifted. The problem lies in how to gather all these voices to take a stronger stand, not only by expressing this noble stand, which is in harmony with the principles and duties of Islam. This encouragement needs to be transformed into a procedural and practical stand. This is what we are working for. There were many voices which condemned the siege on the Iraqi people. This was expressed in speeches during the plenary sessions. They also demanded that it be lifted.

[Al-Sharif] We thank Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs.

Vice President Returns From Jordan Visit

JN0808160691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1513 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 8 Aug (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, has returned to Baghdad following a two-day visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. [passage omitted]

End to Turkish Air Raids on Iraqi Kurds Urged

JN0808194491 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1628 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Unattributed commentary; all placenames as heard]

[Text] Turkish warplanes are bombing our displaced people. Dear citizens, Turkish warplanes bombed a refugee camp of our people in the village of Khirozokah in the Sirwan area at 0900 yesterday. Entire families were exterminated in the raids. The bombing killed 11 citizens and wounded some 30 others. Among the victims were many children and women. A group of foreign reporters and representatives of international humanitarian organizations was taken to the bombed area to allow them to see the results. Earlier, Turkish planes bombed the refugee and returnee areas in Khwaturah in the Sudatan area. The bombing wounded 18 women and children.

A short while ago, we learned that at 0530 on 8 August, two Turkish helicopter gunships shelled the perimeters of the village of Halwah in the Bawari area, but we have not received any reports of losses.

These repeated Turkish aggressions, which are being launched under flimsy excuses, will exacerbate the situation in the Turkish-Iraqi border area and inflame the grudges and ill feelings of the Kurdish public against these attacks. We appeal to the Turkish authorities to end these raids and halt the air raids that target innocent displaced people. We condemn and denounce these raids and ask free people all over the world to intervene to prevent a repeat of these aggressions.

SAIRI Urges Continued Economic Sanctions

LD0808125791 Tehran IRNA in English 0843 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 8, IRNA—The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) on Wednesday called on the French Government to make its proposed lifting of the economic sanctions against Iraq contingent upon the holding of free elections in that country.

In their meeting earlier in the week with the French consul to Tehran SAIRI representatives criticized the French Government for tabling the issue of her proposed lifting of the sanctions against Iraq at the U.N. Security Council earlier on. SAIRI officials said in Tehran Wednesday that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and his close relatives have enough resources to finance food and provisions for the Iraqi population, and that Iraq would not need a Security Council resolution to take care of her economic needs.

Mujahidin Intensifying 'Armed Struggle'

LD0808131791 Tehran IRNA in English 0947 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Ilam, Aug. 8, IRNA—Mohammad Javad Kazem, a sergeant of the Iraqi Army who deserted and arrived in

in Iran through the Halaleh border along with his family Wednesday says the mujahideen of Iraq are stepping up their armed sturggle against the Iraqi regime. He says units of the Iraqi Armed Forces have taken position on al-Samawa-al-Basrah highway round the clock to control traffic.

The Iraqi Army deserter says on the anniversary of the Muslim mourning day of Ashura (the 10th day of the lunar Hegira month of Muharram, July 22, which marks the anniversary of Imam Husayn's martyrdom), a group of mujahideen ambushed a vehicle on board which was Saddam Husayn's daughter who is wife of Iraqi Defence Minister Husayn Kaml. He said there has been no report on what happened to Saddam's daughter in the wake of the attack against her vehicle.

The Iraqi sergeant said the mujahideen are stepping up their struggle against the Iraqi Government especially in the cities of al-Samawah, al-Basrah, al-Nasiriya and Helleh [name as received].

Palestinian Groups Urge Arabs To Break Blockade

JN0708154791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Aug (INA)—Five Palestinian organizations have condemned the new U.S. threats against Iraq.

In a joint statement issued in Baghdad today, the Arab Liberation Front, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestine Liberation Front, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, and the Fatah movement affirmed that the U.S. threats against Iraq are being used right now to peddle humiliating capitulative deals aimed at liquidating the Palestine question and circumventing the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian factions renewed their support for Iraq under His Excellency President Saddam Husayn in its confrontation with the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression. They urged the Arab masses and governments to confront firmly and decisively the U.S. policy and break the economic blockade imposed on Iraq and render it a failure.

Daily Says U.S. 'Threats' Send Message to Arabs

JN0508074091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 5 Aug (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has affirmed that the weakness and capitulation of many people in various parts of the world is what has encouraged the U.S. Administration to strengthen and entrench its aggressive policy toward Iraq, the Arabs, and other causes around the world.

It said in an article here today, under the headline "The U.S. Threats and the Pan-Arab Responsibility," that when the United States continues its aggression against Iraq and continues to threaten its security and higher interests, and when it insists on subjugating its independent will and starving its struggling people, it is sending a message to all Arabs and free men in the world; in fact, it is addressing a message to all those who might think about freeing themselves from its subjugation, be they allies or agents. [passage omitted]

It said that Iraq will not kneel down and that the United States has to learn the difference between what is possible and what is impossible. Cooperation over implementing the Security Council resolutions, despite the harshness, injustice, and prejudice in them, is part of the possible, the fine Iraq is paying for its principled stand and militant role. As for abandoning principles, history, the present, the future, and national belonging, this is impossible.

It is said that Iraq's principles and the bases for its stability, unity of land and people, and national options, cannot be bargained over in any auction or under any circumstances. The brokers who volunteer to pay the expenses of the U.S. scheme against Iraq must learn this fact well.

AL-THAWRAH concludes its article by saying that some Arab rulers have not yet had enough with what they have done or are doing against Arab Iraq. They have showered their shameful concessions on Bush and Zionism. They have also squandered Arab resources and funds; they even went further than that when they agreed to lift the economic boycott from the Zionist entity when the boycott on Iraq is being tightened.

Editorial Says U.S. Drafts French Resolution

JN0908093591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Aug (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has described the U.S. Congress decision to use force against Iraq and its people under the pretext of eliminating its weapons of mass destruction as a new step to launch a new military aggression against Iraq in order to achieve the political objectives the previous chapters of the conspiracy failed to achieve. AL-QADISIYAH, organ of the Defense Ministry, says in today's editorial: Washington was not satisfied with terrorizing Iraq and threatening its people with military aggression but continued the plot with a new chapter, namely the French draft resolution on a partial lifting of the economic blockade on Iraq.

The Iraqi paper says: The draft resolution also seeks to accomplish the suspect political objectives of the all encompassing American plot, not by using or threatening to use criminal force, but by using the weapon of bread, trading with the tribulations of the people of Iraq and using it to impose tutelage over them, blatantly interfering in its internal affairs.

AL-QADISIYAH attacks the humanitarian slogans France has raised in the draft resolution, saying that this cover

cannot hide the premeditated objectives against Iraq and its people or the American hand which drafted it.

The paper expresses the conviction that American circles pushed Mitterrand's government to present this resolution within the game of rotating the roles to reach an exposed political objective. The paper defines the objective as tutelage over Iraq and its people and curbing world sympathy for the people of Iraq after the announcement of the content of the report prepared by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, envoy of the UN secretary general, on the suffering of Iraqis as a result of the economic blockade and on the possible human disaster if this blockade continues.

Paper Regrets Arab Actions on Peace Process

JN0908112491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Aug (INA)—AL-THAWRAH states that the peace process engineered by Washington in the Middle East will deprive the Arabs of their inalienable rights and their national and pan-Arab interests and will accomplish the Zionist plan of a land without people for a people without land. AL-THAWRAH, the organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says in its "Stand" column today that the Shamir government's stance on the peace conference and on the idea of peace is more ideological than political.

AL-THAWRAH notes that Israeli peace in accordance with Shamir's conditions for attending the conference scheduled for October is not a peace in exchange for land, but peace in exchange for peace, because it does not mean withdrawal from the land—Jerusalem and Golan.

The paper describes the atmosphere for a political settlement of the issues in the region as the best opportunity in history for the Zionist movement and Israel. The paper adds that this is the first time in history when they are supported by the money of the capitalist world and of the Jews of the world that used to be socialist.

The paper expresses conviction, based on the sum of positive Zionist moves, that Zionist settlement building in the occupied Arab territory will not stop even in exchange for an end to the boycott as demanded by Husni Mubarak.

AL-THAWRAH rejects the allegations of the U.S. Administration that it is neutral and that it is firmly concerned about the interests of the two parties to the conflict. The paper says that Israel is more important to Baker and Bush than all their old and new Arab friends. Therefore, the paper adds, Baker is asking the Arabs and Palestinians to show more flexibility and to make more concesssions.

AL-THAWRAH expresses regret because some Arabs were deceived by the American-Israeli proposals and because some others submitted to the instructions of the White House and Tel Aviv. The paper adds that Shamir will take peace and land from Baker's Arabs in exchange for nothing.

The paper wagers on the pan-Arab reaction of the masses of the Arab nation to the capitulatory results of the peace conference. The paper says that despite all American guarantees, Shamir will discover that he has usurped a volcano.

Shamir: 'No Illusions' About Peace Process

TA0808175891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Speech by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to IDF officers at the IDF's National Defense College—live, broadcast in progress]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the defense establishment are studying, and will continue to do so, the lessons of the Gulf war and the use of missiles against nonmilitary targets. At the same time, that war forced us to draw political, as well as military, lessons. We must not forget the amazing fact that many in the Middle East were entranced by the Baghdad tyrant's threats of destruction and totally identified with them.

One of the most significant phenomena of the Gulf war was the frantic activity on the Arab scene: alliances that were struck and broken; mutual accusations between heads of states; treason, fraud, and lies. Yesterday's allies turned into sworn enemies in a short time, and, a short time later, their friendship was renewed. We have seen that when an Arab ruler crowns himself a pan-Arab leader while raising the flag of Israel's destruction, he wins the support of the masses throughout the Arab world. The number of human victims he sacrifices on the altar of his ambition makes no difference. We have seen how difficult it is to form a coalition to fight and subdue tyranny. No one can tell what could have happened in the area if the U.S. President had not stood firmly and led the coalition to remove the Iraqi invader from Kuwait.

We have seen all of these phenomena during the history of the State of Israel. This time, however, they all took place rapidly over a short period. Many countries were directly involved in that instructive drama.

The most important lessons for us are the low level of credibility of the regimes around us; the absence of the slightest shift toward democracy to this very day, unlike what is taking place in many parts of the world; a total disrespect for human rights; the absence of protection for minority groups; the concentration of all administration in the hands of a single ruler. All of those facts are part of a reality we understand and know how deal with. History has proven, time after time, that a totalitarian regime would always opt for war, terror, and violence as means of solving disputes and problems. On the other hand, democratic regimes, in most cases, dislike war and violence, and prefer more peaceful means.

As for the political issue, we are at the doorstep of a new era. Now we are witnessing an attempt at a process of negotiations for a peace arrangement with our neighbors. We are entering the process on the basis of a U.S. evaluation that our neighbors are indeed ready to hold direct negotiations with us, with no preconditions, and with no excessive involvement of additional parties in the process. These have always been our demands, and they were based on the assumption that whenever a neighboring country expressed a willingness to talk to us on the basis of these logical and widely accepted basic conditions, we would enter negotiations with it.

We are entering the process with our eyes wide open, with not too many hopes, and no illusions. We will try to make the best of the slightest true desire for peace. At the same time, we will be very careful in protecting our aims and security. Our hand, which has been extended in peace to our neighbors for 43 years, is firm and strong. Behind it is the IDF's might. It is accompanied by hopes for a better future for us and for our neighbors. Whoever comes to us with similar hopes, and with intentions to live in peace and coexistence, will find us loyal partners in the march toward reconciliation. Nevertheless, the people of Israel, rich in experience and disillusionment, will detect deceitful intentions and will know how to prevent any threat to its existence. We prefer to hope for the best.

I wish the 1991 graduates of the IDF's National Defense College success in their jobs. I hope you can take part in constructing the peace.

Thank you.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 8 August adds that in his speech to the IDF college today, Prime Minister Shamir referred to the release of British hostage John McCarthy and said: "As long as we do not hear about our own POW's and MIA's, we cannot say a thing. Unfortunately, until this day no appeal to us has been made."]

Only Lebanese To Be Freed in Hostage Deal

TA0808153191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Telephone interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, by Mikha Friedman and 'Amos Har'el—live]

[Text] [Friedman] First of all, I would like to ask you to comment on the British television report concerning a letter that released hostage McCarthy is carrying for the UN secretary general, which contains a proposal for a comprehensive hostage release: IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers and 11 hostages held in Lebanon in exchange for all the Muslim detainees held by Israel. Has anything of this reached Israel?

[Lubrani] We do not know as yet which version of the letter we are supposed to address. There are two or three versions, and it is therefore too soon to decide anything. At the same time, if they are proposing a deal that includes our MIA's and POW's, we will be glad to assist in obtaining the release of all the hostages, as we have always said. The condition is clear and unequivocal: Our soldiers must be included in the deal. If the contents of the letter are confirmed as proposing a deal that would secure the release of our soldiers, I see no reason why we should not be involved in such a deal.

[Friedman] The letter, as publicized by the media today, says that Israel is to release all the Muslim prisoners, hostages, and detainees it holds. Is that price acceptable to us?

[Lubrani] First of all, I was referring to Lebanese, not Muslims. I was talking about POW's, the number of whom I believe to be about 375.

[Friedman] Are those the Lebanese held by Israel and the South Lebanese Army?

[Lubrani] There is talk of the Lebanese only.

[Friedman] Is that the highest price Israel is willing to pay?

[Lubrani] True. That is what we are talking about.

[Friedman] Will Israel be willing to release persons who are not terrorists, such as Soviet spy Shabtay Kalmanovich, as part of a comprehensive exchange?

[Lubrani] Stop confusing unrelated things. Right now, we are talking about people seized in Lebanon and held either here or by General Lahd. It is to those people that we are referring.

[Friedman] Do you believe there is a good chance of making a deal in the coming days?

[Lubrani] I cannot say. I hope and pray we can, but I cannot say any more. Our expectations were dashed often enough in the past. We are dealing here with a very tough group of people, and it is necessary to wait and see how things develop. We are very glad that hostages are being released, no matter what their nationality. We are happy for them and their families, and we hope that their release heralds the beginning of a process that will bring our soldiers back.

[Har'el] Do you view this as a certain softening on the part of the Islamic Jihad?

[Lubrani] I view this as a recognition on the part of those organizations and of those who guide them that holding hostages and POW's incommunicado is counterproductive. It works against them and shows them as barbarians, an image they would like to shed. I do hope this is the conclusion they have reached and that this is the beginning of a process.

[Friedman] Hallelujah. Thank you very much, Uri Lubrani.

Arens 'Cannot Report' Contacts on Hostages

TA0808164391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe "a short while ago"; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Menashe] Defense Minister Moshe Arens, can we view the release of the British hostage as an opening for negotiations over the release of the Israeli POW's and MIA's?

[Arens] I hope so, but in our experience, the release of POW's and MIA's is achieved through clandestine contacts. Only at the end of such contacts is anyone actually released. At this moment, I cannot report any such contacts.

[Menashe] Has either Israel or the United States received any appeal from Lebanese organizations with regard to Israeli hostages?

[Arens] Appeals designed to secure a release, as opposed to those made for propaganda purposes, are usually made in secret.

[Menashe] Is Israel ready in principle to hold negotiations?

[Arens] We are certainly ready for an arrangement that would bring our POW's and MIA's back home.

[Menashe] Do you think the Syrians can affect the issue of the release of Israeli POW's and MIA's?

[Arens] I have no doubts whatsoever. Our POW's and MIA's are believed to be held on territory controlled by Syria.

[Menashe] Will Israel refuse to release even a single detainee unless the deal includes all our POW's and MIA's?

[Arens] I prefer not to conduct such sensitive negotiations over the media.

'Discontent' With Mubarak on Talks Delegation

TA0808162091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Discontent was voiced today in Jerusalem over President Mubarak's remarks on the need to involve the PLO and residents of East Jerusalem in the peace process. Political sources in Jerusalem said that Mubarak's remarks served merely to emphasize the need for a memorandum of understanding that would prevent the PLO's participating, even indirectly, in the conference. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

As teams formulating the memorandum of understanding were carrying on discussions in Jerusalem, Cairo issued declarations that sounded strident to the ear of the Israeli policymakers. Political sources preferred to regard President Mubarak's remarks as statements designed to please the Palestinians. Nevertheless, the sources believed that Mubarak's remarks emphasized the need for a strictly and meticulously formulated memorandum of understanding.

Israel will want the memorandum to include an explicit understanding that the PLO is not to have any foothold

in the process and that East Jerusalem residents are not to be represented at the conference.

Two main trends can be discerned in Jerusalem today: The optimistic one is based on reports of Baker's talks in North Africa and says that the Palestinians are ready to waive East Jerusalem representation at this stage, and that serious progress toward the composition of a Palestinian delegation has been made. The pessimistic approach, on the other hand, is based on declarations such as that of President Mubarak; it contends that the Americans and the Arabs have reached understandings that are unacceptable to Israel and that will in fact bring the PLO into the conference.

The U.S. team tasked with formulating the memorandum of understanding remains in Israel and is scheduled to meet over the weekend with Palestinian representatives, with whom a parallel memorandum of agreements will be formulated.

Sharon: No Provocation in New Golan Bridge

TA0808192591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon announced today that he intends to build a new bridge over the Jordan River, on Israeli territory, to help double the population of the Golan Heights. Minister Sharon was speaking to the heads of development towns in Sederot. Our correspondent Shlomi Eldar reports:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Eldar] Qiryat Shemona Mayor Prosper 'Azran asked Sharon: Why build a bridge? Sharon answered: to double the number of residents on the Golan Heights, and everybody applauded. I asked Minister Sharon:

Mr. Sharon, is your reply to al-Asad's yes building a bridge on the Jordan River?

[Sharon] The Golan Heights is part of the State of Israel, just like 'Akko, Yafo, Ramla, and any other settlement in Israel.

[Eldar] Is the timing not meant to create a provocation?

[Sharon] We have no intentions of upsetting anyone. The construction of a bridge to facilitate traffic of the civilian Jewish and Druze population living on the Golan Heights—and the Jewish population will certainly expand, because this is part of the government's policy—is not a provocation. [end recording]

'Sources'—USSR To Restore Ties in Autumn

TA0808185391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] The Soviet Government intends to announce the resumption of full diplomatic ties with Israel in the autumn. This will probably take place when Foreign Minister David Levi meets his Soviet counterpart in New York at the UN General Assembly session. This was reported by our correspondent in Moscow Mikha'el Karpin, who notes that his information has been confirmed by Israeli and Soviet sources.

USSR Calls for Release of Spy Kalmanovich

TA0808115091 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Aug 91 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] The USSR recently called on Israel to free Shabtay Kalmanovich, 46, the Israeli businessman convicted of spying for the USSR and sentenced to nine years in jail by the Tel Aviv District Court three years ago.

The USSR has asked Israel to release Kalmanovich and to permit him to return to the USSR, from where he emigrated to Israel.

In return, the Soviets are offering Israel their assistance on humanitarian issues.

This was recently reported by sources in the Soviet Academy of Sciences to an Israeli academic who visited Moscow for work on research he is conducting.

Sources in Israel confirmed the report. [passage omitted]

Shamir's Office Rejects Approach

TA0908103891 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Aug 91 p 18

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Text] Officials in the Prime Minister's Office confirmed last night that an approach was made by a Soviet academic a few weeks ago to swap convicted spy Shabtay Kalmanovich in return for Soviet assistance in freeing Israeli soldiers held in Lebanon. The offer was rejected.

"This whole thing was not serious," an official in the Prime Minister's Office said. "The appeal was not made by a Soviet official, and the proposed trade was very unfair. How can you compare someone who has been convicted of spying by a court of law with Israeli prisoners of war, and how do we even know the Soviets could make a difference in gaining their release?"

Kalmanovich, an Israeli businessman, was convicted three years ago of spying for the USSR and sentenced to a nine-year prison term.

Statements on Palestinian Delegation Clarified

TA0808113991 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Aug 91 pp 1, 12

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Excerpt] Israeli and U.S. negotiators sat down for their first session last night to draft a memorandum of understanding (also known as a letter of assurances) which would serve as a foundation for Jerusalem's participation in a Middle East peace conference.

Meanwhile Yosi Ben-Aharon, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, denied recent statements made by other senior Israeli officials to THE JERUSALEM POST that Israel would not participate in a peace conference should the PLO announce the Palestinian delegation.

"We have not reached this point (in our talks with the U.S.), and it would not be authoritative to say that Israel will not attend," Ben-Aharon said.

It is thought that Foreign Minister David Levi wants Israel to simply ignore any pronouncements coming from Tunis, and thereby not allow them to spoil the process. Some believe the first to announce the Palestinian delegation may either be Jordan or the U.S. [passage omitted]

Poll—86 Percent Support Attending Conference

TA0908090491 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Aug 91 p A1

[Text] Some 86 percent of the Israeli public support the government decision to accept the U.S. secretary of state's offer to join a regional peace conference. This is part of the results of a public opinion poll commissioned by MA'ARIV and conducted by the Teleseqer Institute last week. Only 5.8 percent expressed their opposition to the positive reply.

Another question asked was: Do you personally have faith in the possibility that a regional peace conference, which will probably convene soon, will bring about a political arrangement between Israel and the Arabs?

Following are the replies: Have great faith—15.9 percent; have some faith—38.2 percent; have little faith—21.4 percent; have no faith—17.5 percent; (no position—7 percent)

Commentary on Changes in U.S. Policy

TA0908121891 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Aug 91 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "There Is a Contract Out on Us"]

[Text] When the Godfather embraces a relative and kisses him on the cheek—we read the book and saw the movie—that means there is probably a contract out on him. Israel gets constantly kissed by America in the form of money, lots of money. But when Shamir goes to Washington next month to ask for two more kisses in the form of $10 billion in loans for immigrant absorption, he had better look over his shoulder from time to time since it is quite possible that the current administration may have put a contract out on him or, to be more precise, is determined to bring pressure to bear on Israel in a bid to make it withdraw to the 1967 borders.

"There is no way we could have said no," David Levi stated in the Knesset Foreign Affairs Committee this week, and he is right. Did the government really have the choice of giving a different answer than it did? After all, Bush and Baker had quite aggressively pushed Israel into a corner. The appeal issued from the Moscow summit, with the entire world looking on, was definitely an offer that could not be refused.

Consequently, Israel will soon find itself in an international conference with 14 participants who will actually be representing 30 to 40 countries and who will be unanimously in favor of Israel's withdrawal from the territories. Although the conference is supposed to be merely a ceremony, for 24 to 36 hours it will also be an international anti-Israel tribunal. Speaker after speaker will go to the podium and tell Israel what to do and where it should go back to. It will be all against one and one against all.

Small wonder that the Arab countries that agreed to take part in the process refrained from posing any preconditions or demanding any memorandums of understanding. They do not need them, because there is full understanding between them and the current administration that the purpose is to drive Israel out of the territories. This is not a new U.S. position; as far back as in 1967 the United States regarded East Jerusalem as part of the occupied territories. The difference, however, lies in the fact that former presidents spoke in terms of compromise rather than withdrawal and were very sympathetic about Israel's security. They never thought that a compromise should be imposed on it. Bush is the first President who has explicitly stated in public that "Israel's occupation should be terminated" and who has been energetically trying to attain an international consensus for an imposed arrangement ever since the war in the Gulf.

One must be blind not to notice the dramatic shift in the administration's policy vis-a-vis Israel in two areas. One pertains to the personal level. This is the first time that the U.S. Administration has been made up of a President and a secretary of state who are not friendly to Israel. They do not like Shamir. They do not like the Likud. The invocation of the Holocaust does not move them. When former presidents made slips of the tongue, they were always in Israel's favor. Today it is hard to find any slip of the tongue by the President or the secretary of state that is not detrimental to Israel. President Carter, whose relations with Menahem Begin were not exactly a love story, was a religious man who viewed us through the Bible. Even the Bible does not move the men currently in power.

The second shit has occurred on the political level. Relations between the United States and the Arabs changed after the Soviet Union lost its superpower status. Its relations with Mubarak and Fahd are more intimate than those with Israel. Its strategic cooperation with Egypt is broader and deeper than with us. Because of its interest in oil sources, the United States sees itself becoming the patron of the Arab

world. It is only natural then that Israel—a potential obstacle to this rapprochement—should become the price and the means of payment.

These changes in U.S. policy lead to a situation whereby al-Qadhdhafi (!) is invited to a peace conference and Baker travels to Tunis to beg the PLO for favors. Syria, a terrorist and murderous country, suddenly becomes a friend. Jordan, which openly stood by Saddam Husayn, is pardoned and will soon receive considerable aid. And, if King Husayn is pardoned, how long will it take before the PLO is vindicated?

Those who think that in an election year Bush will not twist Israel's arm have apparently not given any thought to the post-election Bush. A second-term president has always been a source of concern for Israel because it is usually assumed that such a president is free of electoral considerations. If Bush, who is even now intoxicated by power, scores another overwhelming victory in the elections—as predicted by all—it is safe to assume that he will not be overly inhibited or patient with Israel.

We are too dependent on the United States not to try to cope with this new state of affairs. The situation is not entirely lost. Israel still enjoys considerable sympathy in Congress, the only body that can stand up to the President. A flexible and open-minded position on Israel's part could win it support for those things that really matter to it in the realm of security. But if our approach is one of territorial intransigence we might lose whatever special support we still enjoy there. The Shamir government is walking a tightrope.

Shamir Urged To Fire Ministers Against Process

TA040811589l Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
4 Aug 91 p 9

[Commentary by Daniyel Bloch: "No One Will Quit the Arena"]

[Excerpts] An'el Sharon opposes giving Baker a positive reply. He believes that Shamir's surrender to the Americans, without receiving anything in return, will lead to war, not peace. He has no intention, however, of resigning from the government, nor do Yuval Ne'eman, Ge'ula Kohen, Rehav'am Ze'evi, and Refa'el Eytan. An office, a limousine, and a cellular phone are more important than principles and territories. To justify this they say—some as a hint, others more explicitly—that they were promised or that they believe that Shamir, through his loyal torpedoing director general, Yosi Ben-Aharon, will see to it that the negotiations collapse before Israel is asked to give back territories.

No reporter or commentator really knows what is on Shamir's mind and whether he believes that it is possible to attain peace with Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinians without making any territorial concessions. Any politician who does not live in an illusion knows that there is no greater nonsense than "peace for peace." [passage omitted]

Despite all the problems and the U.S. mistakes in the Gulf war, there is a new world order today. It is based on a single superpower, several medium-size satellite superpowers, and the willingness of all of them to work together to neutralize danger zones in the world. Al-Asad has understood. King Husayn already understands. Shamir is beginning to understand, and only 'Arafat and the PLO live in the illusion of the old world order.

Paradoxically enough, Sharon and the other knights of the extreme right still entertain the illusion that Israel is almost a superpower that can dictate moves or reject initiatives as it pleases with no negative consequences. [passage omitted]

The essential element from Israel's point of view is security. Any serious security expert knows that there is room for compromise and territorial and political concessions in all of the territories. They will not put our future in danger if they are accompanied by good, effective arrangements of demilitarization, early warning, and supervision. Another important component in guarding the future of the State of Israel is international support in the shape of security, political, and economic understandings with the United States, NATO, and the EC.

None of them has any intention of quitting the arena. We must learn to live with that, which is not impossible. When Shamir understands this, he will be able to get along just fine without the support of Sharon and the right wing.

Shamir's test case will be his ability to curb Sharon and put him in his place. The minute the cabinet approves the positive reply to Baker, it will obligate all of the ministers and their deputies in word and in deed. Any minister who would continue publicly attacking the prime minister and the ministers who work for the implementation and realization of the reply cannot continue to hold his post in the cabinet. If he does not resign, the prime minister will have to fire him. If Shamir does not do that, it will prove that the prime minister wants his own positive reply to be torpedoed.

Sharon Urged To Quit Before Leading Opposition

TA060811459l Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
6 Aug 91 p A12

[Editorial: "A Confrontation in the Cabinet"]

[Text] Tempers were hot in the 4 August cabinet session when An'el Sharon violated the Likud front of agreement with the "yes to Baker" and sharply criticized Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and the team negotiating with Washington. Shamir said he believes Sharon is motivated by his "unbridled lust for power," and the other ministers agreed. Shamir is possibly reading the writing on the wall, fearing that once the talks start, a large camp that will say "no" to concessions will be formed and Sharon may head it, thus increasing his power.

Despite Sharon's blunt manner, the harsh remarks he made in the cabinet prior to the vote constitute a legitimate part of the debate. A group of ministers who would say amen to the prime minister's suggestions, without asking questions and in unison, is far more dangerous than a government that holds pointed discussions and debates important issues of principle. Nevertheless, what constitutes legitimate behavior before a decision is made is no longer such afterward. Members of a government share collective responsibility; all the ministers must work to advance the policy adopted by a large majority or at least refrain from criticizing the government in public.

If Sharon really wants to launch a public campaign against Israel's participation in the peace conference and the whole political move, he must resign from the government first. Only once he is out can he lead an active opposition to the policy the government adopted two days ago.

U.S. Jews Asked To Block Ghali for UN Post

TA0808114691 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Aug 91 p 4

[Report by Tzadoq Yehezqeli in New York]

[Text] Israeli Government sources recently appealed to U.S. Jewish leaders to do its "dirty work" with the administration and other countries to foil the election of former Egyptian Foreign Minister Butrus Ghali as UN secretary general.

Israel is keeping a low profile on its moves in this regard in order to avoid hurting its relations with Egypt, because President Mubarak himself is behind Ghali's candidacy. Mubarak has even personally appealed to President Bush to support Ghali.

The race for the post of UN secretary general is considered very important because of the institution's increased importance following the Gulf war. Ghali's chances of being elected are very good, UN sources said. Ghali and Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan, the former UN commissioner for refugees, are considered the leading candidates. The election is supposed to take place at the end of the current General Assembly session.

We learned this week from Jewish sources that Ghali has already appealed to Jewish organizations to try to recruit them to use their influence with the U.S. Administration and to obtain their support. Israeli diplomats have no doubt that Ghali's candidacy is not good for Israel, and they prefer someone else.

The Jewish leadership has already begun to act against Ghali and is discussing the issue with the U.S. Administration, although it does not admit this. Nevertheless, Jewish leaders do admit on the record that they oppose Ghali. "In the current situation, it would not be wise to elect Ghali as secretary general. Despite his talents, it would be difficult for him to withstand the pressures exerted by the Arab states," said Abe Foxman, director general of the Anti-Defamation League.

Reconnaissance Satellites Capability 'Soon'

TA0808120191 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Aug 91 p 1

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Text] "Israel will soon have the capability of launching reconnaissance satellites into space for intelligence purposes," space experts said.

The experts believe that the Ofeq project has reached the stage where reconnaissance satellites can be developed. Up to now, Ofeq satellites launched into space did not carry cameras and were not meant to be used for military purposes. Security sources said that the main problem is currently budgetary. They said that the Gulf war proved that there is a vital need for satellites that provide strategic intelligence. The defense minister supports the continuation of the project, but Ofeq's fate depends on a government decision on increasing the defense budget, the sources said.

Politicians To Vie for Labor Party Leadership

Gad Ya'aqobi

TA0508110091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Text] Knesset Member Gad Ya'aqobi announced today that he will compete for the post of Labor Party candidate for prime minister in the party's primaries. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Ya'aqobi intended to wait until next month to announce his plans, but did so today to prevent his supporters from hesitating.

Moshe Shahal, Ora Namir

TA0808114191 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Aug 91 p 12

[Report by Mikhal Yudelman]

[Text] MK [Knesset Member] Moshe Shahal told supporters in a Tel Aviv meeting yesterday that he will definitely be a candidate for the leadership of the Labor Party.

Shahal will be joining Labor leaders Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin, who have already made public their intention to compete yet again for their party leadership, and MK Gad Ya'aqobi, who joined the race earlier this week. MK Ora Namir has also stated her intention to contend. MK Mordekhay Gur and Histadrut Secretary-General Yisra'el Qeysar have still not decided whether to throw their hats in the ring.

Libya's al-Kharrubi Arrives With Letter for Husayn

JN0808180791 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of Libya's Revolution Command Council, arrived in Amman this evening on a visit to Jordan. He will hand a letter from His Excellency Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to His Majesty King Husayn. On hand to welcome him at the airport were Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, minister of information and culture and acting foreign minister, and the ambassadors of Jordan and Libya in Tripoli and Amman respectively.

King Receives Envoy, Letter

JN0808203191 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] At the Royal Court this evening, His Majesty King Husayn received Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of Libya's 1 September revolution. Al-Kharrubi gave his majesty a letter from his brother, Libyan leader His Excellency Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi dealing with relations between the two brotherly states and recent Arab and world developments. The meeting was attended by His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Court; Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, minister of information and acting foreign minister; the Jordanian ambassador to Libya; the chief of the Arab Affairs Department of the Libyan General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation; and the Libyan ambassador in Amman.

King Husayn Receives Jalal Talabani 8 Aug

JN0808203891 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] At the Royal Court this afternoon, His Majesty King Husayn received Mr. Jalal Talabani. They talked about Arab developments. His Highness Crown Prince Hasan attended the meeting.

Talabani Leaves for Turkey

JN0908115091 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, left Amman today for Turkey at the end of a visit to Jordan during which he met with his Majesty King Husayn.

Public 'Pessimistic' About Peace Conference

JN0808124691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8-9 Aug 91 p 3

[By Maryam Shahin]

[Text] Amman—Jordanians are generally pessimistic over the chances of success of the planned peace conference between Arabs and Israelis. They believe, however, that the opportunity to sit at the October peace conference should be seized by Jordan, the Palestinians and other Arabs in order to prove that it is Israeli intransigence alone that stands in the way of solving the Palestinians' problem.

Continued mistrust of Israeli intentions and the failure of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to take a leading role as the representative of the Palestinians in the talks are among the main reasons for the pessimism, according to a random survey conducted by the Jordan Times this week.

The Jordanian position and the leadership's acceptance of the U.S. proposals for holding the conference have met with overall approval, according to the survey.

Jordan's willingness to sit at the peace table with the Israelis is not seen as a "sell out," but rather as a tool to show Arab willingness to accept a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem and to expose the intransigence of the Israelis.

Most Jordanians and Palestinians interviewed say that they do not believe that Israel will give up land it occupied during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war in return for peace.

"The Israelis are building more settlements on the West Bank, Gaza and even on the Golan Heights," says Yusuf Sa'igh, downtown shopkeeper. "The settlements are everywhere and most of our land is already expropriated. I don't know what there is to negotiate. The Arab governments are making fools of themselves thinking they can get anything from the Israelis," he adds.

"Surrender and not peace is how I would describe the peace process," says Muhammad Yusuf, who lives in the Wahdat refugee camp. "We are the losers because Israel will say I won't take any more of your land if you sign a peace agreement. 'So the Arabs will end up having signed away all rights to our land for nothing in return.'"

With the exception of the Islamists, most Jordanians and Palestinians believe that the only viable solution at the moment for the Arab-Israeli conflict is to apply U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and thus agree to live alongside the state of Israel.

At the same time they feel that forfeiting the right to all of Palestine has been a drawn out emotional and psychological struggle for them.

"By accepting the existence of the state of Israel we are being realistic, but we are sad because the reality is an injustice," says Husni Sabri, a lawyer.

"We are ready to recognise what is basically an illegal entity just because the rest of the world wants us to do so and because we basically have no other choice," adds the lawyer.

While those interviewed for the survey say they do not want a perpetual state of war, most feel that if the peace

talks fail to deliver a land-for-peace solution, which would liberate the West Bank, Gaza and other occupied Arab lands, including East Jerusalem, then eventually there will be more wars." [question mark as published]

"The Israelis have said that they will not give up one inch of land that they occupied and I believe that this will continue to be their position," said Amin Barhum, a student at the University of Jordan.

Mr. Bahrum feels that while the peace effort is in many ways "futile" the Jordanian leadership is not "wrong" in showing its willingness to talk to the Israelis. "It's good that the government is showing everybody that we are willing to make peace with the Israelis if they give us back what they took illegally," he says.

"Let the Jordanian government go to the peace talks and say we gave peace a chance. If and when Israel says 'no land for peace,' then the issue is closed," Mr. 'Awni Fashah says.

"When another war comes as a result of continued Israeli occupation then the Arabs will be able to say 'we tried peace,'" adds Mr. Fashah.

If the impending talks fail, those interviewed said, Islamic fundamentalists as well as radical nationalist parties will eventually win the hearts and support of Arab masses.

"Those who oppose the peace talks will win ground if the peace talks fail," said Mr. Hamdi al-Nusur. "The Islamic and other radical parties do not want peace with Israel; they want to liberate all of Palestine and that cannot be done except through war even though war seems way off after the defeat of Iraq," says Mr. al- Nusur.

"But if the talks break down because Israel won't give up the 1967 land for peace, then a renewed hatred of the Israelis will give all radical parties a boost."

Mas'ud Hashim, a retired professor of politican science, says:

"If there is no solution that is at least half acceptable to the Arabs during this peace conference, then there will be a sharp rise in support of the fundamentalist movements across the Arab world. Desperate people, who have no hope left, often turn to religion."

Islamists, which hold the single largest number of seats in the Jordanian Parliament, maintain that nothing less than the whole of Palestine must be returned to Arab rule if justice is to be done.

The Muslim Brotherhood, the biggest party amongst the Islamists, has refused to participate in the government of Mr. Tahir al-Masri and refuses to have anything to do with the proposed peace process.

While many Jordanians are of Palestinian origin, a recent survey conducted by a University of Yarmuk professor indicated that there are some differences in attitudes and opinions between Jordanians and Palestinians on the peace process and the future of the occupied territories.

The study conducted in early summer consisted of interviews with 2,000 people across Jordan.

The study, conducted by Dr. Faruk Halalshah Jum'a, indicated that over 50 per cent of those asked believed that the Palestinian issue was closer than it had even been to being solved peacefully.

Over sixty percent of those asked linked the interest of the Western World to solve the Arab-Israeli problem to the allied role in the Gulf war.

While the Yarmuk University's questionnaire differed from that of the Jordan Times, a question pertaining to the ability of the U.S. government to impose its own interpretation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 indicated the same amount of pessimism over the success of the peace conference.

Only twenty per cent of those asked in the first survey said that they believed that the U.S. was willing to put pressure on Israel to solve the Palestinian problem within the framework of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Frenchman To Be Killed if More Hostages Released

NC0808184791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] In a call to our radio by an unidentified person, a secret organization calling itself the Organization for the Defense of the Rights of Prisoners and Detainees has announced the kidnapping of a French national named Jerome Leyraud, without specifying the date of the operation. The organization threatened to kill him if another hostage is released.

The organization's statement said: We have warned against the release of any hostage. We have carried out what we said and now announce our responsibility for the kidnapping of the French intelligence officer, 2d Lieutenant Jerome Leyraud, who has disguised himself as an employee of a humanitarian organization which claims to help the people. We have seized with him security reports and maps. We announce that he will be executed the moment another hostage is released. We will not stop at this if the deals and trading in the dignity and fate of our brother detainees in Israel and the political prisoners held in the West continue.

In an urgent dispatch received a short while ago, it was reported that a French organization for humanitarian assistance is investigating reports about the kidnapping of one of its employees in Beirut.

Islamic Jihad To Release 'All Western Hostages'

NC0908061891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0527 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] The British Sky News Television Network has disclosed the contents of the message sent by the Islamic Jihad Organization to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Sky News says the message expresses the organization's readiness to release all Western hostages and Israeli Airman Ron 'Arad in return for the release of all Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners held in Israel. Sky News also reported that Israeli officials have met a high- ranking Hizballah member in Paris twice this year and that their talks dealt with the hostage issue.

Fadlallah Says Hostages 'Liability' to Kidnappers

NC0908091491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0907 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stated that the recent changes in the Middle East have made the Western hostages a liability to their kidnappers, pointing out that the world should work to ensure the release of the Lebanese and Palestinians detained in Israel. REUTER has cited Islamic Fundamentalist sources as saying that the kidnapping of French national Jerome Leyraud will undermine the process of ending the hostage issue in Lebanon, a process which began with the release of John McCarthy.

Government Decides To Allow 'Awn To Leave

NC0808173091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] AFP has cited a Lebanese ministerial source as saying that the Lebanese Government has decided to allow General Michel 'Awn to leave Lebanon within the coming days and later to try him in absentia or pardon him. The source noted that the practical and security procedures for 'Awn's departure from the French Embassy have been worked out between Beirut and Paris.

Israeli Shelling of Southern Villages Noted

NC0808160691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] The villages of Kafr al-Rumman, Frun, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, and Qabrikha have been coming under heavy artillery fire from the Israeli occupation positions in 'Alman and al-Shumariyah since 1600 today. The Israeli occupation troops began their intermittent bombardment of the villages of Zawtar al-sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Shaqra, and Bra'shit at noon today. In another development, two Israeli units have infilterated into the area of the Litani River and Birkat Mimis. Concentrated vehicle movement has also been monitored in the 'Alman and al-Shumariyah positions, along the road to Dayr Siryan and along the course of the Litani River.

Hizballah Radio Cites Operation Against SLA

NC0908064491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] An Islamic resistance group ambushed yesterday a Lahd-Zionist infantry patrol on the 'Alman-al- Shumariyah road with rockets and machine guns, inflicting several casualties. The Zionist enemy evacuated its casualties by helicopter.

At 1610, another resistance group detonated a bomb on the same road as an Israeli-Lahd patrol passed, killing or wounding eight enemy personnel. When a 30-man enemy rescue unit rushed to the scene of the operation, the resistance fighters detonated a second bomb, killing three agents. Eight ambulances were seen evacuating the casualties as helicopters flew over the area.

Libyan Envoy Hands al-Hirawi Invitation, Departs

NC0808160791 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, left Beirut this afternoon after handing an invitation to President Ilyas al-Hirawi to attend celebrations marking the anniversary of the 1 September Revolution.

UK's McCarthy, Ambassador Make Statements

JN0808163891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1525 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Excerpt] This afternoon at the Foreign Ministry, Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, handed over to Mr. Andrew Green, British ambassador in Damascus, John McCarthy who was taken hostage in Beirut five years ago. After the hostage was handed over, Mr. Qaddur said: We are happy that hostage John McCarthy has been released, that he has regained his freedom, and that he is with us now. He affirmed that Syria and President Hafiz al-Asad personally attach great importance to the release of hostages because it is a humanitarian issue. He concluded: We hope that we will be able to help achieve the release of the rest of the hostages.

The British ambassador then expressed his thanks and gratitude to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic for all the help over the past months to guarantee McCarthy's release. He said: Our thoughts now move to the families awaiting the release of their hostage family members held in Lebanon. He affirmed that efforts to achieve their release will continue without any let up. He said: This is a happy day for us all since McCarthy emerged from his suffering in such good health. He also thanked the other governments that exerted humanitarian efforts to achieve McCarthy's release.

Mr. McCarthy made an exclusive statement to the SANA correspondent in which in his name and on behalf of all the hostages he thanked the Syrian Arab Republic for efforts to secure his release. He said: For five years I have been yearning to meet a Syrian official. This is what has happened today. He praised the good treatment he received from Syrian officials. He expressed his joy at being in Damascus now on his first visit to Syria. He said: I would have liked to have been here under better circumstances. I am grateful to all the Syrian officials I met here today. He hoped that efforts would continue to achieve the release of the remaining hostages.

In a statement he read to journalists, Mr. McCarthy expressed his great joy at being in Damascus after five years of imprisonment. He thanked Foreign Ministry officials for their warm welcome. He also thanked officials who accompanied him. He added: I am happy to be able to inform the family of the American hostage Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland and the family of my colleague Terry Waite, whom I left two days ago, that they are in good health and high spirits. I left them in very good living conditions. I am carrying a message that I will hand over to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. To the best of my knowledge, the message requests receiving guarantees from the secretary general on organizing the process of releasing hostages and prisoners held in Lebanon and Israel. I cannot say any more than this since the message is addressed to the UN secretary general.

McCarthy pointed out that the Western hostages are in good health and are in good living conditions. He said: This was affirmed by those I was with. He thanked all those who exerted efforts over the past years to release him. He called on all those concerned to continue their efforts to end the suffering of the hostages held in the region. [passage omitted]

McCarthy Departs Damascus

NC0808170791 Paris AFP in English 1649 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Damascus, Aug 8 (AFP) - John McCarthy, a British hostage released Thursday after more than five years' captivity, left the Syrian capital for home aboard a special British Royal Air Force jet. According to unconfirmed reports McCarthy was expected to later travel to Geneva to hand over a message from his captors to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who is due there on Sunday.

"I understand that the letter seeks the secretary general's help to release all the hostages being held back in Lebanon in exchange for those being held in Israel," he told reporters at the Foreign Ministry here before leaving.

He was referring to about 400 Lebanese and Palestinians held by Israel, whose release the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad organization has demanded.

He flew out to Lyneham military base in southwest England after being handed over to the British Embassy here. He made a statement on his release appealing for international help to seek the release of the 11 other Westerners detained in Lebanon.

McCarthy was accompanied by his father, Pat McCarthy, and his brother Terrence. [passage omitted]

Al-Zu'bi, Iran's Nuri Stress Mutual Cooperation

JN0808152591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] At noon today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri-Hoseynabadi, interior minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and his delegation. The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah and Mohammad Hasan Akhtari-Foruqi, Iranian ambassador in Damascus. They discussed relations and cooperation on all levels. They also reviewed the positive results of the Iranian minister's talks in Damascus. The two stressed the importance of meetings, visits, and exchanges of expertise in enhancing and promoting cooperation for the common benefit of the two friendly countries.

Further on Talks

JN0808173491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Official talks began this morning at the Interior Ministry between Syrian Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah and Iranian Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri-Hoseynabadi. Members of the delegations and Iran's ambassador in Damascus also attended the meeting.

At the beginning of the session Dr. Harbah welcomed Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri and his delegation and praised the current and growing relations of friendship and cooperation between the countries in all fields established by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Dr. Harbah spoke about the Syrian Ministry of Interior, the nature of its work, and the duties entrusted to it, especially in implementing laws and regulations, combatting crime, and preserving the security of the homeland and the citizen.

After that, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri-Hoseynabadi expressed his deep thanks for the welcome he and his delegation are being accorded. He expressed his joy once again over his presence in Damascus among Syrian friends. He said: I wish that such visits will be fruitful in developing cooperation to serve our two friendly people because the militant and fraternal links that bind us and whose roots extend over a long period of time are stronger than all obstacles. He greatly appreciated Syria's national and pan-Arab role and course and affirmed Iran's stand alongside Syria in its just battle. He said: We take great pride in the huge achievements realized on all levels under President Hafiz al-Asad.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri then presented a detailed report on the activities and duties of the Interior Ministry in the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially in the fields of combatting and investigating crime, ratifying laws, and solving problems regarding the security of the homeland and the safety of the society.

Rafsanjani Message Delivered

JN0808191791 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] At 1700 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Iranian Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri-Hoseynabadi and his delegation. The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah and Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Hasan Akhtari-Foruqi. The Iranian minister conveyed a message to the president from Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the president asked him to convey a letter in reply as well as his heartfelt greetings and wishes to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the Iranian people.

Libya's al-Kharrubi Delivers al-Qadhdhafi Message

JN0808170091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] At 1030 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council and inspector general of the Libyan Armed Forces; Humayyid Jallud, head of the Arab Affairs Department of the Libyan General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation; and Ahmad Bin-Khayal, head of the Libyan People's Liaison Office in Damascus.

Col. al-Kharrubi relayed a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution in Libya, to his excellency the president, who asked him to convey a message as well as his best wishes and heartfelt regards to Col. al-Qadhdhafi and our Arab people in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. During the meeting, talks dealt with the regional situation and efforts currently under way to launch a peace process. They also tackled the situation in the Arab arena.

Al-Shar', Delegation Return From Istanbul

JN0908060591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', accompanied by his delegation, returned to Damascus this morning after leading the Syrian Arab Republic delegation to the conference of Islamic foreign ministers. [passage omitted]

'Moral Damage' to Arabs After Gulf War Noted

JN0808172591 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 3 Aug 91 p 9

[From the "AL-THAWRAH Issues" column: "The Moral" by Qasim Yaghi]

[Text] Despite the passage of a year since the Iraqi regime's forces invaded Kuwaiti territory, no one has announced or claimed to have assessed the material damage—economic, military, or environmental—inflicted on Iraq and Kuwait in particular, and on the Arab nation and the Middle East region in general. No one has calculated the human losses caused by the invasion's disastrous results during the Gulf war and after the Iraqi regime retreated inside Iraq in defeat and started to collectively suppress the popular uprisings that broke out against it in northern and southern Iraq.

The moral damage inflicted on the Arab stand, as a result of the Iraqi regime's false allegations that its invasion of Kuwait had been an implementation of the Arab unity principle and a starting point for the liberation of Palestine, has been much larger and much more dangerous than the destruction and killing and displacement of the Arab people, especially in Iraq and Kuwait. Through its false allegation, the Iraqi regime has done much harm to

pan-Arab principles to which the Arab nation adhered while laying down its solidarity in the eastern and western part of the homeland with the aim of confronting the big challenges it faces, particularly Zionism and its protege, Israel, which was the biggest beneficiary of that invasion as everybody admits.

Therefore, immediately after it had been announced, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait caused a sharp crack in Arab solidarity, which constitutes an effective pan-Arab framework for joint Arab action. This crack began to spread steadily with the Iraqi regime's refusal to withdraw from Kuwaiti territory. This culminated in the eruption of the Gulf war which resulted in a tragic disaster and the biggest catastrophe inflicted on the Arab nation for several centuries.

Based on the pan-Arab objective and the faith in the unity of destiny, it was imperative to confront the results of the crime committed by the Iraqi regime against the Arab nation, its principles, and values currently represented in Arab solidarity. Hence the Damascus Declaration, signed by Syria, Egypt, and the Gulf Cooperation Council states, came as a rehabilitation to the joint Arab action after the Iraqi regime put it on a dangerous turning point that could have wiped it out.

Despite the disastrous results caused by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the Gulf war, the invasion, its reasons and dangerous results and disastrous repercussions, should be a moral to be learned by everybody, the Arabs in particular, urging them to put a final end to the allegations used by the Iraqi regime to justify its invasion of Kuwait, which are based on adventurous policy that deviates from the Arab nation's will and the international law.

This cannot be realized without entrenching and generalizing the principles of the Damascus Declaration in the Arab world—these principles, which aim at consolidating the capabilities of its states to shoulder their pan-Arab responsibilities in promoting the status of the Arab nation, serving its causes, maintaining its security, and realizing its joint interests within the framework of strong commitment to the objectives and principles established in the charters and resolutions of the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the United Nations.

Talk About Peace Conference 'Premature'

JN0808102691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 8 Aug 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Logic of Peace and Zionist Deviance," AL-BA'TH notes the daily Zionist statements accompanied by practices far removed from peace and its requirements. In light of this, says the paper, talk about the peace conference that the United States and the Soviet Union have called for seems to be premature in terms of proceedings and results—not to say that the negative signs are the dominant ones and the obstacles are the stronger.

The paper adds: The ongoing attempts to push the peace process into the age of peace, which the entire human race is looking forward to, are colliding with an Israeli policy moving in two parallel lines but with the same objective. The first line involves setting terms they have no right to set and that are by no means acceptable to any party concerned with peace. [no second "line" as heard]

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: It is true and reasonable to say that the world now has a great chance to achieve peace, but this is facing a Zionist position which is not straight forward and which needs to be put right. The world community, which proved capable of doing as much through its coalition against the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, may find itself facing a similar task.

TISHRIN says in its editorial today: It is obvious that the statements and acts of the Shamir government have once again raised the fears of the world community after a short period of optimism. There have been reports that the U.S. secretary of state will return to the region in a seventh tour to surmount old and new obstacles. The Israeli officials never stop making provocative statements reflecting a weird and strange concept of peace. They effectively want the Arabs to come to the negotiating table and officially cede their occupied territories to the Zionist entity in return for an Israeli promise not to launch new wars to expand on Arab lands. The peace for peace slogan which Shamir is raising instead of the land for peace slogan only means that the Arabs should officially present the occupied territory as a free gift to the Zionist government to help it establish Greater Israel.

TISHRIN goes on to say: Shamir, of course, will be misleading himself and the Jews in Israel and abroad if he believes the Arabs will sell out the occupied territory or the rights of the Palestinian people. Syria and the Arabs responded to the U.S. peace proposals because they are based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which provide for Israel's withdrawal and underscore the rights of the Palestinian people. The proposals are also based on official and unequivocal commitment on the part of the U.S. Administration to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement in all fronts on the basis of a land for peace barter. Syria is strongly looking forward to a just and comprehensive peace. Such peace has its unnegotiable requirements, especially the rights of the Palestinians and the return of the occupied territories to their Arab owners.

TISHRIN concludes: The entire world is now adopting this Syrian position. It is no use to Israel to make provocative statements, establish settlements, and create a new obstacle to peace every day. The whole world seeks Middle East peace on fair and strong foundations. The Arabs have responded to the call of the world, and Israel, consequently, will be fully responsible for destroying a

rare historic opportunity to uproot wars and tension from the region and ensure a stable and secure future to its people.

Commentary on World Reaction to Settlement Policy

JN0808150691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: After the call, made at the latest Moscow summit between the U.S. and Soviet presidents, to hold a peace conference on the Middle East in October, Israel, with all its official bodies, felt that the siege around it is closing in. Talk about peace, the discussion of it, and the recently proposed ideas for a just and permanent settlement are starting to move seriously toward a practical laboratory where every side that truly wants peace and wants this region and its people to progress and prosper cannot escape.

Since Israel is not thinking along these lines and has never once planned for or sought peace, it hastened to take a series of counter measures through which it hopes to destroy the principle of peace at the root, return the extensive international efforts to point zero, and provoke the Arabs to the point where they would find themselves forced to respond to the Israeli measures through actions and stands that could eventually lead to the brink of war. This comes when final preparations are being made to convene an international peace conference and establish an acceptable formula for a just and comprehensive solution.

Perhaps we here in Syria were always foremost among the experts who understood the Israeli game and its objectives, whether in war or peace. We have been in the vanguard of those who know how to deal with this game, seal it off, and finally make it a heavy burden for Israel itself. From where we stand, we now view the latest Israeli measures as a noose being tightened around Tel Aviv's neck, while it continues to defy international resolutions, reject calls by the international community, and prove its animosity to peace, even if all nations on earth agree on it.

In the final tally, the settlement policy, which Israel has recently stepped up in the occupied territories, will lead to naught, but it will increase the world's anger and disgust over the aggressive scheme Israel is loudly talking about, day and night, in word and deed, on a territory that has no rights and against a nation whose rights are being squandered and holy shrines are being defiled before our eyes and within earshot of the whole world. Israel does this amid talk about peace and while the world is excited about finally ending the Arab-Israeli conflict, which will lead the nation to an oasis of peace and stability and will distance it from the dangers of war and catastrophe.

One of the plainest facts is that the solution the world seeks for this region will be established on the basis of extremely clear international resolutions. In accordance with these resolutions, Israel will withdraw from the occupied territories and the Arabs will regain their sovereignty over every particle of their soil. Thus, settlement building on this territory is a type of tampering that neither benefits its doer nor provides him with any gains; it just wastes time and effort.

The solution for this region has to be just and comprehensive or it cannot be. In a situation like this, one of the first letters in the alphabet of justice is that the land should be liberated from occupation and its effects, however that happens. One of the first letters in the alphabet of comprehensiveness is that liberation should include every inch of Arab territory. Without such an understanding of justice and comprehensiveness, the solution will only be entrenching the logic of occupation and blessing aggression. This is the situation on which the whole world agrees. This is what we have opposed and fought for over 40 years. We believe in peace as strongly as we believe in our rights, and cling to international legitimacy as we cling to justice and fairness in all circumstances and at all times.

Afghanistan

Continued Combat Operations Reported

Mojahedin Capture Posts

BK0708105291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Mojahedin attacked Kabul-Jalalabad Highway, capturing 20 posts of the Kabul regime according to reports from Afghanistan. They also seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition. Another report says fierce fighting continues between the mojahedin and Kabul regime troops in the north of Jalalabad.

245 Operations in Faryab

LD0808093791 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Kabul, August 7, BAKHTAR—incharges [as received] of the people's battalion of the Faryab Province has so far conducted 245 independent and concerted military operations in different parts of the country.

This was said by Mohammad Nadir commandar of the operational group of that unit currently active in the Zarghoonh Shahar area, Lowgar Province to BAKHTAR recently.

Soldiers and officers of these units actively participate in the combat operations in the Balkh, Kabul, Lowgar and in the vicinities of the Faryab Province, he said.

It has so far [words indistinct] confiscated over 200 , armaments of different make and 800 war-heads. Also, they have arrested two Arab advisers and cleared a number of extremist war mongers too, he added.

Incharges of these units defend the people and country against the enemies with high combat morale. They spare no efforts for the realisation of the national reconciliation policy and maintaining of security and peace in the country, he concluded.

'Extremists' Continue Operations

LD0808165891 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1330 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Units of the Armed Forces yesterday crushed extremist terrorist groups who were harassing people along the Jalalabad-Sarobi highway. According to the BAKHTAR military section, as a result of combat operations carried out by the armed forces units, 64 extremists [word indistinct], including Malek, a ring leader of the Harakat organization and several other ring leaders, 8 Saudi mercenaries, and Pakistani militarists were ousted from combat rank and others were (words indistinct). [passage omitted]

Najibollah, Khaliqyar Meet Tajik Minister

LD0908080891 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0456 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] Kabul, Aug 8, BAKHTAR—Najibollah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA], met Lakim Kayumov, member of presidential council and foreign affairs minister of the Tajik SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] at the presidential headquarters today, presidential press dept. reports.

The Afghan leader during the meeting talked about the country's politico-military situation, RA state endeavours to end the war and restoration of peace in Afghanistan and the government support of the UN plan. He added the RA-Tajik SSR have a long history of friendly relations. Strengthening and expansion of these relations is not only in the interest of the Afghan-Tajik peoples, but for consolidation of peace in the region as well.

The president wished for exploration of all avenues for the development of economic, commercial and cultural relations between RA and Tajik SSR. The RA is ready to extend all cooperation at state and private entrepreneurial levels.

The Tajik SSR foreign affairs minister while conveying heartfelt regards of Khakhar Makhkamov, Tajik SSR president, hailed the proclamation of national reconciliation policy and other proposals of the RA leadership for cessation of war and restoration of peace, the report says.

Report adds that the Afghan premier, Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, also met the said guest delegation at the prime ministry palace today.

Both the sides stressed the expansion of relations and opening of a new chapter in the direct cooperation of the Afghan provinces with the Tajik SSR, RA's relations with neighbouring countries, agreements concluded between RA and Tajik SSr, growth of market economy and results of Kayumov's visit to Afghanistan.

Cooperation Protocols Signed

LD0908082391 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0513 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 8 BAKHTAR—A protocol on economic trade and cultural relations was signed and the documents were exchanged between the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] and the Tajik SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] here today.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that on the basis of this protocol the two republics will cooperate with (?each) other in the fields of agriculture, irrigation, electricity and power, light industries, foodstuffs and specially in frontier trade and training of specialists and also exchange cultural delegations. The protocol was signed by Ghulam Muhayuddin Shahbaz, the planning minister of Republic of Afghanistan, and L. Kayumov, foreign minister of Tajikistan.

According to another report a scientific and cultural protocol was also signed between the Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education of RA and the Ministry of Training of Tajik SSR in Kabul today. The protocol was signed by Abdullah Spinger, [name as received] deputy minister of higher and vocational education of Afghanistan, and A.R. Rashidov, deputy minister in Ministry of Training of Tajik SSR and the documents were exchanged.

Guerrillas Seize Red Cross Representative

LD0808162991 Bern Swiss Radio International in English 1530 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] The all-Swiss International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] has announced that one of the Swiss representatives in Afghanistan has been seized by armed guerrillas.

And ICRC spokesman in Geneva said Alexandre Ghelew was taken captive on Tuesday as he escorted a patient home from a Red Cross hospital 60 km north of the capital Kabul.

The spokesman said the ICRC knew where Mr Ghelew was being held and was negotiating for his release.

In January four ICRC delegates were kidnapped in Afghanistan but were released two months later. Mr Ghelew is 27 and comes originally from the Swiss city of Lausanne.

Opposition Groups in Laghman Observe Cease-Fire

LD0908080991 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0517 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] Kabul, Aug 8, BAKHTAR—Five armed opposition groups, after three days of talks and negotiations with the mediating commission of the Laghman Province, stopped fighting and decided to observe ceasefire. BAKHTAR reports that as a result of these talks and negotiations, peace and security has been restored in 25 villages of Laghman Province.

Negotiations of the mediating group with several other armed opposition groups in that province are going on.

Bangladesh

Commentary Hails Passage of New Government Bill

BK0708164791 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Station Commentary]

[Text] Bangladesh has entered a new era of democracy following adoption by the Parliament of the 12th Constitution Amendment Bill last night. The bill has put this South Asian country on the road to the parliamentary system of government which was terminated through the fourth amendment in 1974. Bangladesh now ushers in a real democracy deserting the presidential form of government which often degenerated into a one-man rule in the past. The last nine years of autocracy adequately testify to this.

While speaking on this occasion, Law Minister Mirza Gholam Hafiz said the 12th amendment bill has taken adequate stock of the deficiencies of parliamentary system and adopted measures to ensure a stable government. No parliamentary system is foolproof. It has pitfalls. But, then the system itself should be given fair trial in the country, the minister told the house.

Speaking on the occasion, leader of the opposition and Awami League chief, Sheikh Hasina, said that the opposition has accepted the bill on the faith that the parliamentary system hence introduced in Bangladesh will further be modified gradually to make it really unalloyed. Sheikh Hasina congratulated the parliamentary select committee for accomplishing an (?arduous) task in reaching a consensus on the constitution amendment bill reverting Bangladesh to parliamentary form of government.

The unanimous passage of the 12th constitution amendment bill by all parties in the Bangladesh Parliament speaks eloquently of their firm commitment to give institutional shape to the ideals for which the nine-year-long anti-autocracy movement was launched jointly by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP] headed by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, the Awami League led by Sheikh Hasina, and other political groups. It is good for the cause of democracy that a political crisis that was seen last week following allegations and counterallegations was short lived.

Democracy, especially in its parliamentary form, is a process of give and take, of accommodation, and of compromise. Everybody knows this, including the two leading parties, especially their two leaders, that they will practice what they know to be necessary. The ruling BNP has assured the opposition that two other bills—one relating to separation of judiciary from the executive and repeal of the indemnity ordinance will come up in the house for debate shortly. It was a rare sight indeed in the house that all, right from the treasury bench to opposition, have agreed to weed out the last vestigaes of autocracy, creating an atmosphere of democratic tolerance and coexistence. The amendment has clearly spelt out supremacy of the Parliament which has now turned into a sovereign one.

After the bill becomes an irreversible act through a forthcoming referendum, the executive power of the republic shall be exercised by the prime minister and the Cabinet shall be collectively responsible to the Parliament. The president, who will be the head of state, shall be elected by the members of the Parliament in accordance with law and shall act on the advice of the prime minister. The president shall hold office for two five-year terms whether or not the terms are consecutive.

With the passage of the 12th amendment bill, it is expected that the major political parties represented in

the house will now get down to the basic task of evolving ways and means to improve the lot of teeming millions who have voted them to the legislature. The government will be made accountable to them, thereby doing away with lapses in running the state craft and in so doing, they must cultivate tolerance of dissenting views. Democracy cannot simply function without this. In neighboring democracies, rival political groups sit together in a national crisis and find ways jointly to avert any national crisis. This should be followed in Bangladesh, too, as all in the Parliament must think that if the nation survives, they will exist. There can never be any compromise on basic national issues, and it is really admirable that both the ruling party and the opposition groups last night sank their differences and passed the bill in an amended form. The entire nation is now eagerly looking toward the MPs to deliver the goods. Needless to say democracy is meaningless if it does not help alleviate grinding poverty the masses are in.

Official Deplores Situation in Kashmir

BK0708160791 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Bangladesh has called for an active role by all ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] member-states in safeguarding individual and collective interests of the Muslim ummah. The call was made by the leader of the Bangladesh delegation, Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan, at the ICO foreign ministers conference in Istanbul. He said Bangladesh fully supports the steps taken by the ICO to monitor the condition of Muslim minorities in non-Muslim countries. In this context, he deplored the continuing incidents of death and destruction in Kashmir and urged the parties concerned to show restraint and to seek a peaceful solution to the problem.

Mr. Ahsan reiterated Bangladesh's support for international efforts to solve the Palestinian and Afghan problems.

India

Pawar Urges Solving Punjab, Kashmir Problems

BK0808035191 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has called for solving the Punjab and Kashmir problems through political process. Addressing a press conference in Bombay yesterday, Mr. Pawar said the deployment of the army in these states, though justified by the extremities of the situation, should be minimized.

In reply to a question, the defense minister said the government is considering allowing private industries to utilize the ideal capacity of some ordnance factories to produce defense items for export.

Leaders Hail Renewal of Treaty With USSR

BK0908040691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] The Indo-Soviet treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation has been further extended for 20 years from today. A joint declaration to this effect has been simultaneously issued in New Delhi and Moscow. Leaders of the two countries have hailed the renewal of the treaty. In a letter to the Soviet president, President Venkataraman said India is convinced that a restructured Soviet Union will be a stable and dynamic nation and will continue to contribute to international peace and security and a just and equitable world economic order. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, in his message said friendly relations between the two countries have stood the test of time.

The Soviet president, Mr. Gorbachev, in his message to the president and prime minister of India said that the treaty and Delhi Declaration of December 1986 are reflective of the spirit of relations between the two peoples. The treaty signed on the 9th of August 1971 provides for extension for five years at a time. Its extension for 20 years at a stretch is a conscious decision as it meets the fundamental interest of the people of the two nations.

7 Killed as Suspected Militants Attack Police

BK0808145891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, seven people, including five police personnel, were killed in an attack by suspected militants on a police party near Motipur Village, 12 km away from Nainital last night. Official sources said in Lucknow that the attack took place when the police party was returning after a case inquiry.

New Delhi Deplores ICO's Kashmir Resolution

BK0808145691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] India today deplored the efforts being made at the Organization of the Islamic Conference to adopt a pro-Pakistan resolution on Kashmir. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi that India had always rejected moves to treat the situation in Jammu and Kashmir as a religious issue. He said there is absolutely no question of India accepting any good offices mission or any fact-finding mission to Kashmir from abroad as suggested in the resolution.

V.P. Singh Notes Realignment of Political Forces

BK0808142291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] The Janata Dal leader and former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, says his party will struggle for social justice for the poor and downtrodden. Participating in a meet-the-press program in New Delhi today, Mr. Singh

said the prevailing inequality in the social fabric of the country can only be removed by fully implementing the Mandal Commission report.

Commenting on the political scenario, Mr. Singh said a realignment of political forces is taking place and his party is also feeling the impact. Asked about his differences with the party leader, Mr. Ajit Singh, he said it is an internal matter of the party and the collective decision should be honored.

Home Minister To Visit Kashmir 'Shortly'

BK0708162791 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] The minister of state and home, Mr. M.M. Jacob, told the Rajya Sabha today that the kidnapped IOC [Indian Oil Corporation] official, Mr. Doraiswamy, is safe and alive as per the latest information available with the government. Mr. Jacob hoped Mr. Doraiswamy will soon be released. Replying to a discussion on the Jammu and Kashmir Criminal Law Amendment Bill in the Rajya Sabha today, Mr. Jacob said the political solution was ultimately the only way to defuse the Kashmir crisis. He informed the house that the home minister will be visiting the state very shortly.

The bill, which seeks to replace the Jammu and Kashmir Criminal Laws Amendment ordinance 1991, was later passed by a voice vote. The Lok Sabha has already passed the bill.

Uproar Created Over Minister Scindia's Remarks

BK0808133691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] The Lok Sabha could not transact any business today as the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] members stalled the proceedings over the reported remarks of Mr. Madhavrao Scindia against their party. The house, which was adjourned for the day an hour before the scheduled time, witnessed four adjournments earlier even as efforts to break the impasse continued. The speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, held consultations with floor leaders in his chamber. The leader of the house, Mr. Arjun Singh, told our correspondent that several options were mentioned during the meetings but declined to elaborate. He said we are trying our best to resolve the issue so that Parliament starts functioning.

The BJP leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, told newsmen that unless Mr. Scindia makes appropriate amends, it will be difficult for his party to function in the Lok Sabha. He said the party's reaction has been conveyed to the speaker and the government. As soon as the house met at 1100 this morning, the BJP and its allies were up on their feet saying that they will not allow the proceedings till Mr. Scindia offers an apology. They said the minister, in his clarification given in the house yesterday, only repeated the same allegations instead of withdrawing the remarks that BJP leaders are antinational. Raising slogans they stormed into the well of the house and in the din, in which nothing could be heard. The speaker adjourned the house as the pandemonium continued for nearly six minutes. When the house reassembled, uproarious scenes continued with the BJP members shouting slogans from the well of the house. This forced the second adjournment for one hour. This break and the subsequent two adjournments did not bring about any change in the situation. The BJP members remained adamant and continued slogan shouting. This time they were heard demanding resignation of Mr. Scindia. At one stage, several Congress-I members were seen getting up but were persuaded to resume their seats by their senior colleagues. Our parliamentary correspondent says the issue of remarks by Mr. Madhavrao Scindia, which he is purported to have made at a news conference in Lucknow four days ago, first figured in the house on Tuesday. It led to a BJP-Shiv Sena walkout yesterday. In the afternoon, when the house reassembled at 1430 after the third adjournment, some Telugu Desam members also moved into the well and were heard criticizing the Andhra Pradesh government for the alleged atrocities against scheduled castes in a village in Guntur District. They also sought to hand over a memorandum to the chair.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Economy, Peace Talks

LD0908111991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] The Tehran Friday prayer was held this week in its usual magnificence in Tehran University and the adjacent streets under the leadership of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani and with the massive presence of prayer givers.

The acting Friday prayer leader of Tehran referred to the approaching Government Week in his sermons and reported on the performance of the government during the past three years. Describing the conditions prevailing soon after the acceptance of the cease-fire as well as the difficult postwar economic conditions and also referring to material problems stemming from eight years of imposed war, he said:

Among the difficulties the government faced soon after the end of the war were: damage amounting to $1 trillion; commitments and debts to others and to the Central Bank amounting to $12 billion; shouldering responsibility toward combatants and the injured; half-finished projects equal to 500 billion tumans [one tuman equals 10 rials], which is over six times more than the country's annual budget; backwardness of industrial plants; dependence of the people on government expenses; rising level of deprivation in the deprived sectors; the state of no war and no peace on the front line; continuation of the economic blockade of the country;

acts of God such as floods and earthquakes; and finally the presence of Iraqi and Afghan refugees in the country. He added: These problems, added to infrastructural backwardness, placed a very heavy and unbearable difficulties on the shoulders of the people.

Referring to the fact that as time went by the postwar problems became even more apparent, the president of the republic said: We encountered the highest level of budget deficit in the year 67 [Iranian year ending 20 March 1989]. Keeping those problems in mind, we arranged the policies in a plan that was implemented after its approval by the Majles. Now, thanks to good performance by officials, all the economic indices are advancing well. A sound move has been initiated so that the country may be taken out of the postwar difficulties, so that the country may achieve excellence.

He said that time was needed to solve the country's problems. He then added: What is important is the fact that we are now on the move. He stressed that a large portion of budget funds has been earmarked for the universities. He said that a campaign against the root cause of all the problems—which was a shortfall in output—was being followed up seriously. The production index, which had always been on a downward trend, had begun an upward trend since the year 68 [ending 20 March 1990].

He explained the movement of inflation since the year 53 [ending 20 March 1975] and said: We based our work on increasing output. That aim must be achieved through cooperation between the people and the government. With establishment of the principle of arriving at equilibrium, prices will also find their true place.

The president of the republic invited merchants, industrialists, and tradesmen to cooperate with the people and the government to remove the country's problems. He then said: They will face serious confrontation if they fail to observe fair practices.

Referring to the government's policy of increasing the level of salaries by a ratio above the inflation rate, he said: That policy was adhered to last year, and we have a decree to do so for the current year as well. Of course, until we arrive at the true destination, the salaried group will continue to face difficulty—a kind of difficulty that cannot be solved through injection of money in society.

In the second sermon, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani devoted his remarks to foreign policy, and referring to the worrying situation in the world and the region he said: The Middle East peace conference, engineered by America, is advancing on a one-sided course; and if it continues on the same course, the region's deprived and oppressed will not benefit from that situation. Even more tragic are the stances adopted by the Arab countries of the region, which pave the way for America; because currently Arabs are approaching the situation from a position of weakness, and Israel and America from a position of strength.

Announcing that the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance is based on the Zionist regime being a usurper regime and that Palestinians have rights over their land, the President reminded that Muslims and true Palestinians would not give up their rights.

The acting Friday imam of Tehran referred to the point that Arabs do not enjoy any significant world support, and the only thing they possess is [support from] general public opinion, and gradually they are even losing that. He said: Of course, governments such as Syria that recognize Israel's evil intensions believe that through adoption of the current stances the world will realize the filthy nature of Israel. If that is the case, then public opinion would support Arabs in the future.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Even if America succeeds in imposing its evil intensions at the peace conference, it is still a loser; because it is confronting Muslims who will never give up Beyt ol-Moqqadas [Jerusalem] and Palestine. Most definitely one day Muslims will rise up against the Israeli mischief and America will be left with [Muslims'] spite and hatred forever.

President: Plots To Exploit Economic Problems

LD0808133191 Tehran IRNA in English 1258 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 8, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today warned against plots of the external enemies of the revolution to disappoint people by magnifying the country's economic bottlenecks.

"Under the present conditions when all signals indicate an improvement in the economy, the worst thing to do is to make the people dispirited," the president told Information Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Fallahiyan and other senior officials of the ministry.

He said as a result of the heavy war losses inflicted on Iran, huge economic projects worth rials 5,000 billion have been suspended and their estimate was increasing by the year.

"These are all the results of the war imposed on the country, therefore we have a very difficult job ahead," he told the visitors.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also said that after looking through the country's post war issues, officials came to the conclusion that economic issues were more "serious" and had to take precedence over other issues.

He said although the Islamic revolution was a cultural one, economic problems have to overshadow cultural affairs at this stage, when the war has ended and people's expectations have risen.

Radio Reports Death of Bakhtiar

LD0808152891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] The last prime minister of the annihilated shah, Shahpur Bakhtiar, has been killed. According to a report by AFP, the dead body of Shahpur Bakhtiar was found this morning by the police at one of the rooms on the ground floor of his house in the suburbs of Paris.

French police sources say that they did not observe signs of struggle or any broken doors at Bakhtiar's house. According to the same report, the police forces have surrounded the vicinity of Bakhtiar's residence. Earlier REUTER had reported that Shahpur Bakhtiar was attacked this morning with a knife at his residence.

While condeming the killing of Bakhtiar, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that to follow-up the case it is in touch with the Ministry of Interior. Bakhtiar fled to France since Bahman 1358 [February 1979], simultaneous with the mounting tide of the Islamic revolution of the people of Iran. He resided there until today.

Khamene'i Praises Intelligence Ministry Efforts

LD0808210591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Mr. Fallahiyan, the minister of intelligence, accompanied by his deputies and the ministry's directors, met with the leader of the Islamic revolution. During the meeting His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i praised the efforts of the employees of the Intelligence Ministry and provided them with necessary instructions.

Ahmad Khomeyni on Anticounterrevolutionary Actions

LD0808110491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] The minister of intelligence, his deputies, and the directors of that ministry were received by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni at the Jamaran Mosque last night, at the end of a nationwide seminar of the ministry's officials.

During the meeting, Intelligence Minister Fallahiyan-Khuzestani submitted a report on the activities of his ministry in terms of foiling the internal and the external conspiracies hatched by the enemies of the Islamic revolution.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni pointed out the Intelligence Ministry's significant role in combatting the counterrevolutionaries and safeguarding the achievements of the Islamic Republic system, and said to the Intelligence Ministry officials: His eminence the imam, sanctified be his noble soul, justly described you as the unknown soldiers of the lord of the age since your sole concern, as the revolutionary children of the imam, is the administration of justice. You have carried out your duties in terms of combatting the counterrevolutionaries, without any fuss.

Stressing that the Intelligence Ministry officials must treat people in a fraternal manner, based on Islamic principles, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni added: You must ensure that in your area of responsiblity no individual rights are trampled on; you must endeavor not to deviate from the path of Islam and of the imam, to which end you must never pay attention to enemy propoganda.

* High Cost of Living, Inflation To Weaken Regime

91AS1217B Tehran SALAM in Persian 6 Jul 91 p 2

[Text] One of the important issues that in the past few years has caused pressure on the people and the most important factor in the weakening of the government and increasing the people's pessimism is double-digit inflation and high prices, especially since the income of an important strata of people has not increased in proportion to inflation.

A variety of reasons have contributed to the present inflation in Iran. The most important factor in the increase in demand, the shortage of supplies and the decrease in imports is the decrease in the price and production of oil.

But inflation is not merely due to the joint factors of increased demand and shortage of supply. Part of the inflation is also the result of hoarding and high prices due to middlemen in the distribution system.

One of the main reasons for the government budget deficit is the failure to collect the taxes projected in the budget. Besides, the share of taxes in the government revenues compared to other countries is very low. But even this low ratio has not been collected.

In 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991], a significant portion of the projected government taxes were not collected.

The main portion of the uncollected taxes concerned the revenues of the service sector, particularly the business sector, because income taxes and taxes on imports and government companies have reached the projected level, and what is not collected usually concerns the services and business sectors.

Years ago people resorted to religious reasons to evade the payment of taxes, regarding it as against the religion. Some of the clerics also reasoned that when the payment of khoms and sahm [religiously based contributions] are made, taxes are irrelevant, that religious taxes are Khoms and Sahm.

The jurisprudential reaction of the Imam to the idea of the opponents of the payment of taxes disarmed their

reasoning. But since this reasoning was a cover for evading the payment of taxes, other methods such as cheating in the books and not recording the revenues were opted for.

On the other hand, with the increase in inflation and middlemen, billions of tomans have been poured into the pockets of new-style capitalists, and an important part of the existing inflation is due to the actions of this group.

Although for a year or two the media and the officials have been relatively silent in regards to these economic violations, it is hoped that in the statements of the leader, the issue of taxes and artificially high prices due to hoarding and middlemen will once again be addressed. But meanwhile, the main point concerns the actions of the Islamic societies of the bazaar.

Since the bazaar merchants, like all other groups, know about the details of each other's work, why have the Islamic societies in the bazaar not cooperated with the government and the officials in regards to the violations of their colleagues?

Do the officials of these societies have the same belief in taxes as in the law? If the answer is yes, it is necessary for them to announce their cooperation in paying taxes to the government (in ratio to their income) and identifying their deceitful colleagues.

If they have not done so already, they have a valuable opportunity to implement the statements of the grand leader in order to prove their claimed support of the regime of the Islamic Republic.

We hope that in the future month a list of tax violators, hoarders, profiteers and money accumulators will be placed at the disposal of the government and the people by the Islamic societies of the bazaar. Of course, this does not mean that the government should not act in its legal capacity. Rather, it is the least that is expected of any individual who believes in the regime of the Islamic Republic.

Work on Hostages' Release 'in Batches' Reported

PM0908101791 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 8 Aug 91 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Sources Close To Iranian President Reveal Story Of Hostages' Release to SAWT AL-KUWAYT: Kidnappers Killed a British Hostage, Hashemi-Rafsanjani Sent His Brother To Investigate"]

[Excerpt] Tehran, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—The Iranian National Security Council decided to help secure the release of all the Western hostages in Lebanon after one of these hostages was killed under mysterious circumstances. SAWT AL-KUWAYT learned from sources close to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani that the Iranian decision was made last week, after Mahmud Hashemi Bahramani, brother of the Iranian president and director of the Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine section at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, returned from a "secret" trip he had made to Lebanon. He was the head of a delegation comprising Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC] leaders and intelligence staffers to investigate the killing of a British hostage by his guards while he was trying to escape.

During his trip, Bahramani met with Hizballah leaders in Lebanon and representatives of the Islamic Jihad movement in occupied Palestine, as well as a secret cell that originally belonged to Hizballah but broke away and called itself "The Oppressed on Earth" [al-mustad'afin fi al-ard]. The sources said that, as a result of these meetings, the Iranian president's brother prepared a file on the circumstances that led to the killing of the British hostage and on the other hostages' conditions, their whereabouts, and the groups guarding them. Then he referred the file to the Iranian National Security Council, which convened last week under Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The council decided to draw up a timetable for the release of all hostages in batches. Sources close to the Iranian president revealed to SAWT AL-KUWAYT that the council decided for that purpose to summon in the next few days Fathi Ibrahim al-Shiqaqi, Sayyid Barakah, and 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Awdah from the Islamic Jihad movement; 'Imad Mu'ghniyah from the "Oppressed" organization; and 'Ali al-'Afiy, Hasan Nasrallah, and Muhammad Funaysh from Hizballah. The sources said that Damascus told Tehran that there are limits to patience with regard to the leniency toward Hizballah's movements in Lebanon and the protraction of the hostage problem. The sources concluded their statement by saying: The American hostage Terry Anderson and the British hostage John McCarthy are the ones most likely to be the first batch. This is because the authorities in Iran are now convinced that the hostage card, which the hardliners are trying to exploit, is now a losing one and is contributing to preventing the normalization of the Islamic Republic's relations with the world.

In this context Iranian Interior Minister 'Abdollah Nuri arrived in Damascus yesterday. Informed Iranian sources have said that the Iranian minister, who held the post of Imam Khomeyni's representative to the IRGC, is on two missions: The first concerns withdrawing the IRGC from Lebanon and the other concerns the issue of the hostages' release. [passage omitted]

Border-Crossing Agreement Signed With USSR

LD0808103891 Tehran IRNA in English 0548 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Moscow, Aug. 9 IRNA—A memorandum on consular relations between Iran and the Soviet Union was inked here Wednesday.

The memorandum, to speed up issuance of visas for the Iranian and Soviet nationals to visit each other's countries, was signed by visiting Iranian deputy foreign minister for consular affairs Mojtaba Mirmehda and his Soviet counterpart Boris Chaplin.

Meanwhile, two other notes of understanding previously inked between Tehran and Moscow on border crossings by the Iranian and Soviet nationals within a radius of 45 kilometers of Iran-Soviet borders were re-signed after being amended.

Commentary Denounces Attacks on Pakistani Shiites

NC0508175391 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 23 Jul 91 p 15

[Unattributed commentary: "The Assignment of the Wahhabis in Pakistan"]

[Text] The attacks by Wahhabis in the past few days on the mourners of Husayn in Pakistan, which culminated in some of the mourners being martyred and wounded, once again fanned the mounting tension in the region and induced insecurity.

While the Shiites and Sunnis have for years performed their religious rituals in an atmosphere of fraternity, the enemies of Pakistan have now embarked on a campaign to disrupt the solidarity of the country based on a calculated plan. They now wish to capitalize on this discordant atmosphere.

It is unusual that the Wahhabis have become active in Pakistan and launched armed attacks. They entered into this dangerous game at the bidding of others. Interference from foreign embassies, especially that of the U.S., in the latest clashes and their overt and covert contacts with the Wahhabi leaders clearly indicate that others have a hand in brewing discord in Pakistan.

This plot proliferated to such an extent that even Pakistani officials warned against it and sense the danger. The adviser to Pakistan's prime minister on social welfare recently said: "The youths who are affiliated to the Sipah-e Sahaba (Wahhabi) Association [anti-Shiite group said funded by Saudi Wahhabis] are creating discord and generating violence among Muslims and are being given financial assistance to do so."

Thus, the issue of Wahhabis in Pakistan is not merely an ideological issue. It is an attempt to create insecurity and disturbances in Pakistani society. They also threatened to expand their attacks all over the country.

This attitude itself is evidence that the mission of the Sipah-e Sahaba—a Wahhabi group in Pakistan—is to create tension so that it may pave the way for greater interference by Pakistan's enemies.

Considering that the United States is furious that the majority of Pakistanis are opposed to its criminal policies, it wishes to take revenge on them through terrorism.

This vengeance will not be confined to the Shiites of Pakistan. It also will engulf the Sunni population of that country. This is because Pakistani Sunnis also opposed and condemned the actions of the criminal United States and its mercenaries against the world of Islam. Therefore, the hostility on the part of the United States is not directed at merely one stratum or particular group in Pakistan, and the United States is seeking to disrupt public order through its agents.

Even though the real objectives of the enemies of the Pakistani nation in implementing such a plot have not emerged, facts and figures point to the fact that the White House is indignant and apprehensive at the rising feeling among the Pakistanis to combat tyranny. Otherwise, why would a Wahhabi sect publicly attack the mourners of Husayn with firearms?

If the Pakistani Government does not consider drastic measures to counter the criminal actions of the above sect, certainly the present atmosphere will worsen and the crisis will escalate until events are out of control. In that case, another Lebanon with more distinctive characteristics will emerge.

If the Wahhabis continue their criminal killings, the Muslims, whether Shiite or Sunni, undoubtedly will react. This will development into a deep fissure in society, which will seriously harm Pakistani society. This also was stressed vehemently by the Pakistani officials.

Thus, before the current conflict becomes irreparable, it is essential the Sunni and Shiite Muslims and the country's officials prevent the plot from proliferating and nip it in the bud. Such vigilance will disappoint the enemies of the Pakistani nation, who are also enemies of Islam, and their attempts to attain their illicit objectives will be defeated.

Experience has proven the enemies of Islam have never benefited from the atmosphere of killing and inspiring fear. Muslims will defeat them. The greater the vigilance exercised on this path, however, the sooner will they attain results and with fewer losses.

In any case, what the world of Islam expects from the Pakistani Government and people is for them to combat this plot subtly and intensively, preserve the spirit of fraternity, and strive for greater unity in the society.

Common Border Market With Turkey Opens

LD0808171291 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Orumiyeh (West Azerbaijan), Aug.8, IRNA—The largest Irano-Turkish common border market was opened at the Sero border crossing near this southwestern provincial capital Thursday.

The opening ceremony was attended by Orumiyeh Governor Asadollah Lotf-Ata, the governor general of Turkey's Hakkari Province and other officials from the two Iranian and Turkish provinces.

The common market set up according to an agreement between the two countries serves local peoples on either side of the border.

In his inaugural speech, Lotf-Ata said the aim behind the market was to increase Iran's non-oil exports and to stimulate the economy of areas on either side of the Iran-Turkey border, creating jobs for border dwellers and preventing the smuggle of contrabands.

He said 150 items of permissible goods are available at the said market, and that efforts were in progress to open another common market at Zeyni, on the outskirts of Orumiyeh.

Two other common markets have already started operation in Maku and Khoi in West Azerbaijan Province.

Editorial on 'Dangers of Zionism'

NC0508210591 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 28 Jul 91 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Dangers of Zionism and the Mission of the Islamic Ummah"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The courts of the region have been submerged in shame and degradation. Dishonorable Arab monarchs are at the height of their disgrace and abjectness and seem to to be thirsting for more. World arrogance, which once trembled at the very mention of the Middle East and of the world of Islam, today made inroads into Islamic territories and calls itself the "savior of the Arabs of the region."

Israel, which was in a constant state of dread from the wrath and fury of the Muslim nations, feels quite complacent today and is behaving in a coquettish, hard-to-get manner. The Arab world is intimidated and is traversing the path to surrender, as can be seen from the performance of the servile leaders. This is the bitter and unfortunate picture of today and tomorrow the picture will be even more dismal and disgraceful.

The Cairo regime, which preserved its bondage and continues to be in Zionism's talons, was assigned the task of dragging the Arab leaders to the table of negotiations and eventually peace with Israel. Israel with utter indifference continues to denigrate the Arabs and is ensuring that all its demands are met prior to the commencement of any talks. It is also making sure that it will not give any concessions to the Arab reactionaries, even at the conference table.

From the point of view of Israel, peace with the Arabs is tantamount to a kind of reconciliation in which the two sides kiss one another and live happily ever after. In order to affirm its goodwill toward the Zionist enemy, the Arab world has already put all its markets at Israel's disposal and is laboring under the delusion that Israel will reciprocate by halting its construction of Jewish settlements.

The Zionist enemy, however, is arrogantly rejecting all such proposals and even deemed the boycott of Israel immoral. An arms embargo has been openly clamped on the Arab countries, but the flood of weapons continues to pour into Israel. The dimensions of U.S. economic aid to Israel multiplied many times over and the possibility of it increasing continues.

The main condition for any kind of improvement or broadening of relations between regional Arabs and the West is that they should "grovel" before Israel and accept the existence of this "cancerous tumor." The Arab reactionaries accepted this utter humiliation and will not hesitate to sign such agreements. The conditions imposed are such that even the progressive Arab countries have become "flexible" and are ready to "prostrate" before the West. [passage omitted]

They are accepting the same disgrace that the nations resisted for three generations, but refused to accept. The signing of any pact that accepts the shame of the existence of Israel and the disgrace of the rule of the usurpists on Islamic territory will be a sword which has been thrust into the heart of the regional nations and the entire world of Islam.

The acceptance of the existence of Israel and the sovereignty of the savage usurpists over Islamic territories will be the final bullet which will destroy the freedom and independence of the nations of the region. This is a major dishonor, the effects and repercussions of which will engulf all Muslim nations. It would be worthwhile for those who do not believe such concrete facts to ponder over bitter realities such as, what were Israel's boundaries at its inception and how far the enemy has expanded today. [passage omitted]

It is possible that the dishonorable Arab leaders may argue that they do not have the strength to fight Israel and are not inclined to fight the savage usurper. This is a painful fact, but why surrender? If the Arab reactionaries are not fit to fight Israel, why are they subjecting their people to surrender before Israel? The Arab reactionaries were never capable of a manly fight against the savage usurpers, but why should they permit Islamic lands to be given away in the name of Israel?

The hands of the criminals should be chopped off and the honorable dossier of the resistance of nations should prove that nations do have the prowess for putting up such a manly fight. The humiliation-accepting deceptive ones who wish to act on behalf of the Arab world and the world of Islam and to sign off Islamic territories to Israel should suffer the retribution of their shameful actions. [passage omitted]

Arabs' Plight, New World 'Disorder' Viewed

NC0508203391 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 25 Jul 91 pp 1, 16

[Mohammad Sarafraz editorial : "The Worst Conditions for the Arab Countries"]

[Excerpts] The heads of Arab countries are paying the penalty for accepting the dangerous U.S. military presence in the Middle East. In the worst possible circumstances they are bestowing privileges on the United States and Israel. Discord among Arab countries is cresting and humiliating decisions are being taken by the Arab leaders one after another.

1. The littoral countries of the Persian Gulf are apprehensive that they might confront an "identity crisis." On the one hand it appears that the United States is thwarting every plan that can give any assurance to these countries regarding the regional security arrangements, and as a result, the plans are heading toward failure. On the other hand, U.S. pressure for the alleged "modernization" of these countries is serious, as it is aimed at "controlled democracy" and preventing "religious fundamentalism." [passage omitted]

2. The Saddam regime accepted the worst conditions imposed by the United States in order to govern the Iraqi people for a few more days, and there is but a short path to tread until the stage of "official guardianship" of the region by the great powers is reached. Each day the government's authority for administering the country and utilizing its sources of income is diminishing and ostensibly being transferred to the United Nations.

The U.S. and allied rapid deployment forces [RDF] have been stationed on the borders of Turkey, Iran, and Iraq. Obviously, after granting permission to Iraq to sell its oil, they will also control the mode of its sale and Iraq's oil income. The moment that Saddam fails to acquiesce and give major concessions will be the time of his certain downfall.

3. It appears that out of fear of its annihilation, Syria is embarking on suicide. It was mostly Hafiz al-Asad's anti-Israeli popularity that kept him in the seat of power for 22 years. If as it appears on the basis of certain current facts, Syria relegates the Palestinian issue to oblivion and recognizes Israel in return for the Golan Heights, it will begin the countdown to the instability of the Ba'thist government in Syria. The political aggression in the future will stem from the contradictory decisions by the Arab countries.

These countries fought against the Iraqi regime for its occupation of Kuwait and only a short while later wish to officially recognize the usurper of Palestinian lands! [passage omitted]

What will the United States gain from this new world order in the Middle East? Israel will be the No. 1 power in the region. Instability and tension will grip the entire region until a pretext arises for the use of military force by the United States, U.S. control over oil resources increases and the rulers and monarchs will be toppled in their lifetime.

Thus, what can combat this major disorder? The only hope is the Muslim nations of the Middle East, which are becoming more aware and vigilant toward the events in the region by the minute. It is not without reason that anti-U.S. sentiments have gripped the countries from Turkey and Pakistan to Iraq, Kuwait and Egypt, and these can halt the absolute supremacy of the United States.

RESALAT on Media Role in Factional Politics

Commentary Responds to Criticism

NC0508111791 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 27 Jul 91 pp 1, 16

[Mohammad Sarafraz commentary: "What Wisdom and Expediency?"]

[Text] In its editorial this morning, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI commented on a report in this newspaper about the Council of Guardians' interpretation of Article 99 of the Constitution by stating: "The headlines in one of Tehran's evening newspapers on the last day of the past week announced that a dispute had arisen between two rival factions over the fourth Majles elections."

Although the issue at hand was one of the forms and limits of the Council of Guardians' supervision of all elections, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI claimed: "This newspaper's publication of this report on its front page, with a boldface headline spanning seven columns and full details of the decision and clarifications, projected it as a victory by one faction over another."

We would like to ask Mr. Masih Mohajeri, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI editor in chief, why he is so upset by the publication of a news item and why he erroneously describes it as the start of a dispute between two factions.

Why does JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI insist on creating the impression of "civil strife" between the factions in the country and take it upon itself to be the United Nations and call for a cease-fire? I believe it is necessary to point out the following to Your Excellency:

1. All factions in the country must be obedient to the Vali-ye Faqih, and, if this is the case, then the term "factional strife" becomes meaningless. Furthermore, all those who believe in the Velayat-e Faqih should view domestic and foreign issues in the light of the guidance and views of the leader. Why does JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI not take the trouble, for example, to defend the economic policies of the system, which have been endorsed by his eminence the imam (may God be pleased with him) and our great leader, as well as by the Majles, and why does it not respond to their opponents?

2. Why do you label the Council of Guardians a faction and describe its interpretation of the Constitution as the victory of one faction over another? The Council of Guardians has the task of interpreting articles of the Constitution, and it has done so on many occasions in the past.

Why did its interpretation of Article 99 generate such a reaction from this newspaper, which saw it as the start of a dispute? What dispute? Is not the persistent use of this term an attempt to create a self-fullfilling prophecy? Did you not hurl abuse so that tomorrow others would indeed print "ripostes from their arsenal?"

The Council of Guardians has been entrusted with the interpretation of the Constitution to settle existing differences and prevent the emergence of new ones, thus creating a consensus among all factions. How can you consider the Council of Guardians' interpretation as the beginning of a dispute? Are you not aware that the form and limits of its supervision of elections had long been a bone of contention between the Interior Ministry and the supervisory committee?

Should not those forces that believe in the system regard the Council of Guardians' interpretation as a "judicial ruling?"

How, then, can the publication of the Council of Guardians' interpretation on one of the most important issues in the country be unwise or inexpedient?

3. Although it has been silent about most of the important issues facing the country for the last two years, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI now suddenly deems it necessary to interfere and to express its views about RESALAT's publication of a report, the print of its headline, and the manner of its support for the system!

In the future, we hope to see greater "wisdom" and "expediency" on the part of those who write the editorials in this esteemed newspaper. We also hope we need not remind them that we may well see the day when JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI carries front-page boldface headlines announcing the resignation of those who speak against the views of the late imam.

Refutes Neutrality in Analyses

NC0508192591 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 28 Jul 91 p 2

[Ahmadreza Darestani-Farahani commentary: "The Media: From Impartiality to Neutrality"]

[Excerpts] Some of the mass media of the Islamic Republic of Iran say, "Because we are impartial about the country's political factions (!) we should adopt a neutral stance on issues."

Unfortunately from the media's point of view, neutrality toward the factions has been interpreted as neutrality towards the analysis and review of the interests of the revolution and the system, as well as of the stances of Iran's internal and external enemies.

Today, when the Islamic revolution is faced by complex issues in its international and regional policies, as well as from the dangers of the unipolar system emerging in the world and the surrender of the last Arab bastions in the struggle against Israel; in circumstances in which the United States is exerting overt pressure on various countries to limit their relations with Iran and in conditions in which the influential opposition groups (!) inside the country are making extensive efforts to inspire pessimism among the people, the media seem to have forgotten that their obligation has become more momentous and heavier regarding the presentation of analyses and review of issues for the masses. They seem to have a nebulous fear that by entering this plane, they will embroil us in "factional strife!" [passage omitted]

Today, as it was 12 years ago, the Islamic revolution faces acute and difficult problems such as the effects of the eight-year imposed war, as well as the plots being hatched by world arrogance. Unfortunately, a sort of "liberalist leniency" is present in the official cultural and propaganda apparatus of the country, which has created conditions conducive to the emergence of various new counterrevolutionaries in the publications which seem to be mushrooming all over the country. Thus, the revolution and its lofty gains attained with the blood of the martyrs have become the targets of the propaganda attacks of the imperialists at home and abroad.

Today the VOA, the BBC, and Radio Israel, as well as the radios of the monarchists and the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] have made the Islamic revolution the target of their venomous propaganda. Inside the country, publications affiliated with certain groups are exerting pressure and making multilateral efforts to undermine the revolutionary determination of the people. At times these publications print the same erroneous and malicious insinuations and analyses made by foreigners regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran.

True, we cannot expect so and so newspaper or magazine, which has power-seeking objectives and wishes to undermine the people's feeling for a change in the administration, to expose and narrate the miscellaneous conspiracies of the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to call on the people to maintain a vigilant presence on the scene for the constructive efforts to safeguard the gains of the revolution. But of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is related to the system, the revolution, and the people, we do have some legitimate expectations.

The leader of the Islamic revolution had, in his 8 July address, reprimanded those who strive to create a rift between the people and the officials of the system. [passage omitted]

The question that we wish to ask the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the publications is, to what extent have they acted in accordance with the serious exhortations of the great leader of the revolution?

Editorial Series on Government, Society Continues

Views Educational Structure, Industry

NC0708184491 Tehran JAHAN-E ELSAM in Persian 27 Jul 91 pp 1, 8

[Fourth in a series of editorials by M. Qums: "The Government, Society, and Policy-Making"]

[Excerpts] There are only two objective in industrial planning. The first is merely to meet domestic demand concerning the process of reconstruction, progress, and rennovation in the country. This is a topic, which does not need a great deal of deliberation.

The second is to elevate the economic potential and financial structure of a country through exports and by bringing in foreign exchange. Of course, the meaning of industry here is not the various forms of industry, but infrastructural industry. The first thing that will come to mind is that the most favorable situation is to have both these elements at once. But this is more an ideal rather than a logical demand, because when a logical demand cannot be met adequately, it is no longer favorable. This is exactly the problem that the Third World is facing. The role of realistic policy-making is the correct answer to this question and can extend to include all the aspects of the problem. Industrial exports—and heavy industrial exports at that—with the intention of bringing in foreign exchange should be based on a specific, logical, and, at the same time, realistic policy. The intent behind this logic is not merely to have a basic policy in theory, but to have a policy based on the realities of the country involved and not merely following patterns that have been tested in other countries.

Industry has been the most major source of income in developed countries. Can this also apply to the Third World?

Definitely a clear-cut and positive answer cannot be given to this question, because first important elements such as the extent of capital needed, the environment, competition in world markets, and—more important yet—the general course taken by industry both qualitatively and quantitatively in the world should be considered. [passage omitted]

A great deal of effort is not required to explain economic strategy within a general framework. For example, when we state that our strategy is to expand self-sufficient and independent industry, undoubtedly no one will be opposed. But when the means and models for the implementation of this strategy within the framework of short-, medium-, and long-term policies are announced and put to use, we see that these policies do not conform with the initial strategy. [passage omitted]

The problem we now face is not the compilation of strategies, but how to make these strategies conform with policy-making and specific patterns and models. Our industrial situation fully reveals the signifiance of this problem. The general policy is to establish a self-sufficient and national industry. The creation of national industry is linked with many elements. Attracting technology, attracting capital, and training personnel are three initial principles required in choosing an industrial pattern and model and should be in proportion with the general policy and the criteria that we use to choose patterns and models. Our policy-making moves in one direction alone. The attraction of technology has been transformed into the attraction of industries, complexes, and so on. The reason for this process is clear. The reason is that the attraction of technology is dependent on many elements, one of which is the need to alter the social infrastructure, especially in education and culture. Technology can be attracted in its true sense only when our education system will be able to maintain, safeguard, expand, and develop this technology. The educational infrastructure is not at all in proportion with this macro-policy. There are various elements that we can blame this on. But our shortcoming stems from our inattentiveness to the significance of our educational infrastructure. Factors should be considered which will be able to effectively and naturally make this attraction take place, and this calls for a body of policies. Our failure to succeed during the past 12 years in finding a pattern and model for industrial development is because these factors were not taken into consideration. The vicissitudes that we have been through during the past 12 years are a good example of these problems. Of course, we do not intend to blame the post-revolutionary officials, because these problems are deep-rooted in the past. But acknowledging this fact does not solve any problems. In tandem with investing in order to attract technology and industries, we should introduce education policies and more seriously regard the issue of changes in the educational structure. The difference in the speed at which these two major processes are moving is the reason behind our collective and individual problems today. The auto industry is a good example of this difference in speed.

Have we asked ourselves until now why the Peykan [Iranian-made auto] has not been able to meet our needs? We can list many reasons, but there is no need to here. We have important capabilties and potentials such as experience to which we should pay more attention. Since the day it was introduced to Iran until now, there has been no basic change in the Peykan. In other words, it has never been able to change. Therefore, there is no reason why such a car with these specifications should continue to exist. There is one basic reason why no changes have taken place in the form, quality, and other characteristics of this car. When this industry was brought to the country, the intention of the policymakers was to refrain from a true attraction of technology and from manufacturing a product that would conform with the society's needs. Therefore, no steps were taken to develop it. If our manpower had been trained in all aspects, and if the principle of research in the attraction, expansion, and improvement of technology had received the attention it deserved, and if the genuine industrial needs of this plant were taken into consideration, the

Peykan could have developed and various models with various qualities could have been offered to society. [passage omitted] But look at the way the Benz and Peugeot industries operate. Definitely this mode of operation has been different from Peykan's. For example, today's Peugeot is not the Peugeot of 30 years ago and there is more than one model to choose from because the various aspects of technological growth have been integrated in the economic structure. We have not given any thought to this integration either in education or in culture (general culture). Even though we criticize the past regime logically and justly for having pursued this kind of policy, nevertheless we have repeated the same experience. This is something we lack in our macropolitics. In other words, we have not created any type of symmetry in our macropolitics. Where does this shortcoming stem from?

Explores Role of Majles

NC0808102291 Tehran JAHAN-E ELSAM in Persian 28 Jul 91 pp 1, 2

[Fifth in a series of editorials by M. Qums: "The Government, Society, and Policymaking"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In their role as policymakers, the government and the Majles must ensure that problems are freely discussed and subjected to expert analysis. Forums should be set up that will allow government and Majles experts to explain their policies to society and to learn the views of the people, including intellectuals. It is only to be expected that this process may well create certain difficulties, but if systematic and orderly movement in this direction does not take place, expressions of sympathy will inevitably turn into expressions of rage and all society will suffer. Experience confirms that negative criticism solves nothing, but if does exist, then there are usually two ways of trying to control it: resorting to threats and force or issuing exhortations and admonitions. There is another way, however, and it is not having policymakers reiterate their positions in interviews and speeches or publishing articles in the press. We must create a new and modern system. The universities, the mosques, the schools, the Majles, and the mass media are all appropriate tools for doing this. It is our national duty to make the best use of them. If this is to be effective, however, it must be done within a clear and logical framework. Most policymaking is done in the ministries and the Majles, and it is crucial that the views of experts be heard before any policy is approved or any decision adopted.

This is not only a good principle, but will also help remove ambiguities.

The people, the intellectuals, and the experts will accept a policy much more readily if they are involved in its formulation and presentation. If this is done, then the government, as the executive branch, will be called into question only if it fails to implement these policies. Today, however, we see how the executive branch is not only questioned but criticized for its policies when it is not the only one making these policies. The Majles and other organs are involved in the process as well. The mass media should not just find fault. If it is doing its job correctly, then it should also be able to provide answers, because it too has a role to play in charting the course of and the making of policy.

Views Fight Against 'Corruption'

NC0908062591 Tehran JAHAN-E ELSAM in Persian 29 Jul 91 pp 1, 2

[Sixth in a series of editorials by M. Qums: "The Government, Society, and Policymaking"]

[Excerpts] Today there are many people in great Iran—both in the cities and in the villages, and both the young and old—who ponder this country's problems. Discussions on the problems of society—political, economic, and social—are not discussions on a specific trend, but on the fate of a country—something which everyone is concerned about. Economic-social development is completely linked with political-cultural development. There are two issues that comprehensively should be examined. First, it is not possible to study the economic and political problems without considering current world events. If we want to divide these two, then we definitely will face a problem. Second, we cannot consider economic problems without appreciating political-cultural problems. Therefore, we cannot draw a line between general economic development and political-social problems without considering world developments. [passage omitted]

To fulfill its programs, the government needs the following to direct society toward an ideal situation based on genuine evidence of growth and development:

1. It should be flexible and able to adapt to domestic and foreign social-economic-political changes. This flexibility should be coupled with creativity in the use of various mechanisms;

2. It should enjoy legitimacy. Legitimacy is a topic which is often discussed concerning all governments. It stems from the extent to which a government can understand the various requests of the people and the extent to which it can work to fulfill thee requests. Each government owes its legitimacy to various mechanisms. The most complete mechanism for legitimacy is the ability to absorb special characteristics from various fields such as the values that rule society, traditions, and ideals, coupled with the ability to fullfil primary needs based on laws, whether these laws are manmade or stem from values that are accepted by society;

3. It should be able to peacefully solve social rows and differences;

4. It should be able to preserve, continue, and strengthen the national and Islamic identity of the people.

Undoubtedly certain cultural prerequisites exist which each government requires in order to implement the above, the most important of which is a political education. A member of the society should be taught how to accept ideas that are contrary to his and to have a positive approach to them. Elevating the political knowledge of the people is a basic condition. Mutual trust is an important element in developing the social atmosphere. Isolationism, suspicion, and doubts are negative and deterring elements in the development process of society. [passage omitted]

A major part of our problems stems from the fact that we do not pay attention to the people's participation in its true sense. Corruption and bribery are realities in our society today and denying their existence will not solve any problems. Issuing administrative orders and adopting legal and harsh stands can be effective only when we look at the problem as a reality and try to find the roots of this problem. Corruption and bribery can be effectively confronted if society is politically developed. The elements that can confront corruption and bribery are precisely the same elements that lead to their emergence. Poverty, injustice, and discrimination are among the main but not the only economic reasons for these two phenomena. Our society should uproot poverty, injustice, and discrimination to confront corruption and bribery. But at the same time legal confrontation also is required. [passage omitted]

Urges Industrial Development

NC0908073891 Tehran JAHAN-E ELSAM in Persian 30 Jul 91 pp 1, 8

[Seventh in a series of editorials by M. Qums: "The Government, Society, and Policymaking"]

[Excerpts] We are moving toward industrial development whether we like it or not. Simple calculation shows that it is no longer beneficial for half of our population to work in villages or cities and the other half to be consumers. Economically speaking, all national forces should be active. Manpower is an important and basic element for industrial development and manpower will have the last word in society's view of how much technology can be absorbed. [passage omitted]

The following elements must be kept in mind in planning for industrial development: the environment, the type of industries, and our expectations of these industries. All practical programs and general policies should be based on these three elements. Iran has ecological potential, but it also faces various bottlenecks and limitations. Each industry should carry out its function in accordance with the ecology or problems that will be detrimental to development will arise. Iran's ecology will allow the creation of various types of industries. In fact, any industry can be absorbed with a little bit of effort. The most important element of this absorption is our expectation. The overall spirit of the industrial movement in our society is formed by our domestic needs and recognizing the extent of these needs and that their impact is extremely important. Our society is currently in a reconstruction and construction phase. It needs to expand its industries and potential. In explaining our expectations, we should first consider some points and then try to paint a general picture of the situation. We need to do the following:

1. Supply domestic needs for reconstruction and social development by taking into consideration problems and difficulties such as war damages, natural disasters, and the general backwardness in our cities and villages;

2. Step into the path of industrial development, a necessary element for social development in general;

3. Creak the necessary grounds for development in other fields;

4. Use industry as the grounds for creating jobs and investing in social welfare;

5. Set the wheels of society's general economy into motion to increase the gross national income. Both macro- and micro-policies are needed to implement these plans. [passage omitted]

The general needs of society during the current phase are: First, construction material; second, financial capital; third, facilitating laws; fourth, urban planning in both general and engineering. In order to meet these needs, we need industries that will cover a broad spectrum. The role of policymaking is to take these spectrums into consideration. Have we, in fact, included this in our policymaking? Have we thought about its problems?

One of our society's problems now is the marked shortage of construction material and financial capital. If we look at the program that has been approved by the government and the Majles, we see that these problems are not addressed. We are, however, facing difficulties some of which are natural and stem from the incorrect social structure and genuine shortages. But some also stem from incorrect actions and wrong initial assessments in policymaking. [passage omitted]

Basically speaking a correct and principled program is one that can, with the help of acceptable mechanisms, identify problems and provide viable alternatives. We advise you to take a look at what the minister of housing, the Central Bank government, and others promised the past year.

Discusses Education 'Revolution'

NC0908101591 Tehran JAHAN-E ELSAM in Persian 31 Jul 91 pp 1,8

[Eighth in a series of editorials by M. Qums: "The Government, Society, and Policymaking"]

[Excerpts] In the last installment we discussed the special relationship between our expectations from industry and

the problem of policymaking as well as their impacts on each other. We also discussed how these issues should be based on realities. In other words, realistic policies are required from the very beginning, and in theory these policies should be able to provide viable alternatives or we will face problems implementing them.

One point that is always a topic of discussion is the specialization of manpower as a tool for industrial development. Any industry which does not rely on domestic experts cannot achieve its goals. Training specialized manpower is not something that just happens; it is a process that requires time and can only be achieved if the educational structure of society has the capability to offer what is necessary or, at least, has the ability to change. Among the most basic prerequisites in this is the need to achieve equality between quality and quantity in education and quality in industry. [passage omitted]

The mere fact of having an education system does not solve any problems. It is true that every effort to raise the literacy rate is generally a step toward releasing society from the bonds of dependence. These efforts will bear fruit only when they are aimed at a specific goal and move in accordance with economic planning. The problems of the past regime stemmed from the very fact that economy and education did not move equally. The impact of this policy can be felt even today. [passage omitted]

Changes in the education system should be made just as changes in industrial development are. Why does society need various experts today when our society is so young? Had education been based on a correct rationale, we would not have had shortages today. We have 700,000-800,000 high school graduates each year who are not accepted by universities. There is no ratio between the number of our university graduates and our economic needs. In some fields we have more experts than necessary while just the opposite is true in other cases. This is why in our efforts to solve society's problems immediately we have to ask for help from experts who are abroad.

We carry out a general assessment and accept the logic that using Iranian experts abroad is more economical than using foreign experts, or we conclude that putting the wheels of economy into motion by using manpower is more economical than importing products. Of the three elements needed for industrial development—manpower, capital, and investment—we at least have capital. Our intention is not to negate this reasoning. We should accept the fact, however, that such reasoning can only be justified under the current emergency conditions. If we want to continue the same policies in the future, we will have no justification. We can accept the fact that the absence of sufficient expert forces is the outcome of an educational system that existed for at least 30 years. But the face of the young generation in education should change. Our educational system today does not need reform; it needs a change and a revolution. This revolution should take place in the quality of education. The failure to invest in this—whatever the reason may be—will further increase the gap between industry and the other economic branches and education, and will ultimately place all economic efforts in industry and agriculture at an impasse. Bringing in factories and attracting technology are extremely important and valuable issues. But preserving, expanding, and developing technology are more important. Independence can only be achieved through this process. And this process can only be achieved through research, education, and the use of experts inside the country.

Commentary Views New Subsidy Policy

LD0708220991 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1500 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] These days everywhere the people are talking about the changes in the methods of payment of government subsidies or about the reduction of their level and their gradual phasing out. Meanwhile, the five-year development plan introduced a change in the system of subsidizing basic goods on its agenda, the aim being to restrict benefits of subsidies to low income individuals. [passage omitted]

Government subsidies in Iran date back to the late 1330's [1950's] when the government only subsidized meat and wheat. But in 1353 [Iranian year ending 20 March 1975] the country's income trebled as a result of the increase in the price of oil. Consequently, the government increased its current and development budgets which led, naturally, to an increase in the purchasing power of the members of society and in turn that brought about an increase in demand.

However, policies which led to rising inflation in Iran had to be resorted to due to increased imports together with international inflation. This then forced the government to adopt the unwise decision of increasing its own subsidies. Government disbursements on subsidies during the years 52 and 53 [Iranian years ending 20 March 1974 and 1975] expanded eightfold as a result.

After the victory of the Islamic revolution, the remaining effects of the wrong economic policies of the ancient regime together with war, economic blockade, and falling oil income joined hands to prevent the officials of the country from embarking on a principled and infrastructural planning with the aim of reforming the country's economic structure. Preliminary steps were taken to cure the country's ailing economy within the limits of the five-year plan when the the war came to an end and the new government was formed.

In view of the fact that economic experts believe the principal problem of the economy is in output—that is, in increase in output could eliminate other ill effects remaining from wrong policies of the past such as unemployment, inflation, and expanded liquidity and the like—the government utilized all its efforts toward

the objective of supporting the producers. Thus, the aim is to eliminate obstacles in the way of production with a view to increasing the level of output in the society bringing about a balanced the economy and equilibrium in the prices.

However, as society has not yet achieved a balanced economy and since prices still are out of line, the government has no choice but to protect, through payment of subsidies, the consumers—the majority of whom are from fixed and limited income groups—on a short-term basis. Our officials have often said that subsidies of rationed goods will not be abandoned so long as the income of vulnerable strata has not arrived at a balance. [passage omitted]

In this connection the Economic Council, despite freeing the supply of poultry and eggs in its recent decision, did not eliminate subsidies on these items. Rather, it enforced a new method, which is payment of cash subsidies [instead of subsidizing prices of poultry and eggs, the government will pay cash equal to per unit subsidy of the goods to consumers].

Economic experts believe that cash subsidy payments are preferable to payment of subsidy to the goods. In any case, our Muslim nation knows that the government policies, which are operated within the framework of the five-year plan and are based on giving incentives for increased output—may bring about difficulties for low income groups of the society in the short term. But one must be certain that once this transitional period is over, through increased domestic productivity, together with an improvement in the country's economic system and price stability, equilibrium coupled with economic welfare will hold sway over the country.

Commerce Minister Reports on Nonoil Exports

NC0808065791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] The cabinet met yesterday afternoon to review domestic developments and the regional situation. It also heard a report by Commerce Minister Vahaji on the country's nonoil exports for the first three months of the current [Iranian] year. Mr. Vahaji announced that these exports had registered a 109-percent increase in value and a 22-percent decrease in weight compared to the same period last year and now stand at the level of $460 million.

He expressed the hope that this level of growth, achieved in just a few short months, will continue.

Commerce Ministry Distribution Centers Dissolved

LD0808171391 Tehran IRNA in English 1332 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 8, IRNA—All Commerce Ministry-affiliated centers for procurement and distribution of goods imported from abroad have been dissolved as of today according to a decision approved by the Supreme Administrative Council. The centers were founded in 1979 to supervise imports of foodstuff, tools, construction materials, wood and paper, textiles, chemicals, machinery and spare parts, and electric appliances and parts.

All duties of the centers were entrusted to the Commerce Ministry according to the decision taken in line with the government's policy of merging or dissolving all parallel organizations within its five year development plans launched last calendar year (March 1990).

Minister Calls for Population Control Campaign

LD0708140291 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 7, IRNA—Education Minister Mohammad 'Ali Najafi here Tuesday afternoon called for a nationwide effort to attain a 'promising' future in the field of education.

Speaking in a session of a group of deputies of ministries also attended by First Vice-President Hasan Habibi, Najafi called for a campaign to control the population growth.

Stressing the need for vigorous implementation of the population control programs, Najafi said, Iran experiences an annual growth of 8.5 percent in the number of its schoolgoers.

Referring to the growth rate of Iran's population, Najafi said that the country will have an additional one million school age children at the end of 2001. This requires an additional 32,000 classrooms, 60,000 teachers and 12 mililion textbooks.

Since only 23.5 percent of the current budget of the country is allocated to the Education Ministry, which only covers 88 percent of the school age children, Najafi said, the growth in number of the schoolgoing children will result in decline in the quality of education.

Fourth Fire in Tehran Bazaar; Cause Unannounced

LD0708200991 Tehran IRNA in English 1626 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 7, IRNA—Fire erupted at a shop in Tehran's main bazaar for the fourth time in two weeks, but was soon put out. In the first fire that engulfed the 'Sarayeh Amir' of Tehran bazaar about two weeks ago billions of rials worth of commodities including materials and handwoven carpets burnt to ashes. Minister of the Interior 'Abdollah Nuri has said that only one of the previous fires raises the question of willful and malicious burning.

The wave of current fires at the Tehran bazaar has generated concern among the businessmen and has given rise to differing conjecutures among the population. The cause of today's fire is yet to be announced.

Pakistan

PPP Members Defect, Join Sindh Chief Minister

BK0708165291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] According to APP [Associated Press of Pakistan], a nine-member delegation of PPP [Pakistan People's Party] office bearers from Liari had a meeting with the Sindh chief minister, Jam Sadiq Ali, in Karachi today. The delegation led by (Amir Shaharyar) MPA [Member of Provincial Assembly] said they have quit the PPP and decided to join hand with the Sindh chief minister so that the problems of the people which remained unattended since long, despite their full support to PPP [word indistinct].

Jam Sadiq Ali said he would welcome all those who stand for promotion and strengthening democracy.

Bank Terms British Report on BCCI 'Misleading'

BK0908092691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] The State Bank of Pakistan has described as highly misleading a British press report which said that it had fined and repeatedly criticized BCCI [Bank of Credit and Commere International] branches in Pakistan for their wrongdoings. A State Bank press release issued in Karachi said it carried out inspection of banks in Pakistan at regular intervals to evaluate their assets and liabilities and to determine the level of liquidity and solvency. It said the State Bank noted the procedural irregularities in numerous (?cases) of banks' operation in Pakistan, including Pakistani, American, European, and other banks who all have been penalized and BCCI branches in Pakistan are no exception. It said the fine realized from some other banks has been much higher than that imposed on BCCI. The State Bank has also denied as incorrect the report that fine imposed in 1988 was dropped in 1990.

Official Describes Stand on Middle East Issue

BK0708161491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] The leader of the Pakistani delegation at the Istanbul conference [of the foreign ministers of Islamic Conference Organization—ICO] and Secretary General of the Foreign Affairs, Akram Zaki, has said Pakistan opposes foreign intervention in Middle East affairs and the countries of the region should make their own arrangements for their security. In an interview with the Turkish language daily, he said ICO should have political importance, as it represents 20 percent of the world's population and 40 percent of its economy. Akram Zaki also explained the Pakistani prime minister's proposal on talks between Pakistan, India, the United States, the Soviet Union, and PRC for nuclear nonproliferation in the region. He made it clear that Pakistan's nuclear program is for peaceful purposes and it has the right to implement its nuclear program to meet its energy needs.

Referring to Indo-Pak relations, Akram Zaki said the Kashmir issue remains the only hurdle in Pakistan's relations with India. He stressed the need for a peaceful solution to the issue.

He also referred to close and friendly relations between Pakistan and Turkey.

100 Killed in Clashes With 'Antisocial Elements'

BK0908092491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] In Pakistan, 100 people were killed and over 200 wounded over the past three days in clashes between troops and tribesmen in North-West Frontier Province. According to information reaching Islamabad, those killed include both paramilitary forces and tribesmen. Four days ago, Pakistani authorities launched a combing operation against what they called antisocial elements and drug smugglers, but met with stiff resistance from the tribes which are fighting a guerrilla war against paramilitary troops. The tribals in the area were actually not paying their electricity bills and had been protesting against establishment of security post pickets in their area only.

ICO Support Policies on Kashmir, Afghanistan

BK0908101491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] The Islamic countries foreign ministers' Istanbul conference has condemned the large scale violation of human rights in occupied Kashmir and has supported the fundamental right of the Kashmiris to self determination. Ending yesterday evening after five days, the conference issued a resolution expressing deep concern over the present tension, saying it has endangered the peace and security of the region. The conference has urged the secretary general of Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] to form a three-member fact-finding mission which is to submit a report to him after touring Jammu and Kashmir. The secretary general has also been urged to submit his report on the implementation of the conference resolutions at the next conference. Stressing the need for continuing talks between India and Pakistan to peacefully resolve outstanding issues, it called on both countries to return their troops to peace time positions, and reiterated that it is ready to send a goodwill mission under leadership of the chairman to minimize tension and to solve problems peacefully.

In another resolution, the conference stressed the need for the formation of a grass-roots government in Afghanistan and for the comprehensive political settlement of the Afghan problem so that peace and stability can be restored. It said the Afghan people have their full rights to adopt political, economic and social systems without any external intervention. Commending the Afghans for

their brave struggle to liberate their country, the conference supported the mojahedin for restoring Afghanistan's independent and impartial status and Islamic identity. The foreign ministers also supported UN secretary general efforts to settle the Afghan problem politically and urged the ICO secretary general to cooperate with him in obtaining this goal.

Akram Zaki, the leader of the Pakistani delegation and foreign affairs secretary general, said the full support of Pakistan's stand on Kashmir and Afghanistan at Islamic foreign ministers' conference is a tribute to the leadership of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Talking to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in Istanbul last evening at the end of the conference, he said Pakistan's dignity has increased internationally due to the government's stand against aggression and support for peace during the Gulf crisis. He said the Arab foreign ministers he met at the conference paid tribute to Pakistan's policies on Kashmir and Afghanistan and supported them unconditionally and enthusiastically. Akram Zaki said the foreign ministers have decided unanimously to hold the 22d ICO conference in Pakistan, keeping in view its valuable services in obtaining the goal of the Muslim ummah.

Sri Lanka

Troops Begin Clearing LTTE's Men From Camp

BK0808113291 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] The Operation Balawegaya task force, who established a new defense line northwest of the Elephant Pass security forces camp, yesterday began clearing pockets of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists out of the camp. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that ground troops with air support were attacking enemy positions. Terrorist casualties were reported heavy. Troops were also reported to be consolidating the northern defense line which they gained by overrunning a strong network of the terrorist bunkers and tunnels. Soldiers had to clear a huge mine which the terrorists had laid when withdrawing. Meanwhile, two terrorists were killed in an encounter at Mullaitivu on Tuesday.

Decline in Unemployment Rate,Inflation Reported

BK0708123591 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] The number of unemployed in Sri Lanka is now on the decline. According to the governor of the Central Bank, Dr. H.N.S. Karunatilake, unemployment, which was 16 percent in 1988, has now dropped to 10 percent. Commenting on the economic and monetary discipline in the country over the past two years, Dr. Karunatilake, notes that the economic climate is now beneficial providing incentives for local and foreign investments. This trend will result in the creation of more job opportunities for the youth.

The governor of the Central Bank also referred to a decline in the rate of inflation as a result of the government's fiscal policies. Inflation, which was in the region of 19.6 percent in December last year, declined to 11.6 percent last month. Dr. Karunatilake was hopeful that the concentrated attention paid by the government to the fiscal sector will bring down inflation to a single-digit level in the coming months.